Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Have you gotten your refund/stimulus check yet?

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Many of the most popular people on Twitter are comedians, and they are perhaps the best.

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Senate kills Saipan casino bill

Guerrero gets 5-day prison term

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona handed down yesterday a five-day prison term on businessman Juan Pan T. Guerrero, who was found guilty of driving while under the influence of alcohol and two other traffic offenses.

The 60-year-old Guerrero will start serving his sentence on

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Guerrero

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian), Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), and Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) during a break in the session yesterday afternoon at the cafeteria of the Tinian Elementary School.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate killed yesterday House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio's (Cov-Saipan) bill allowing casino operations on Saipan, three years after voters rejected the same proposal.

Seven of the eight senators present in yesterday afternoon's session held on Tinian voted "no" to House Bill 17-55, House Substitute 1.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) abstained

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Aguilar pleads guilty to money laundering

Danilo T. Aguilar pleaded guilty yesterday to two felony counts of laundering of monetary instruments in the District Court of Guam. He was sentenced to 60 months probation, full payment of restitution, and to the terms and conditions of his plea agreement.

Aguilar faces jail time for any violations of the terms and conditions as ordered by the court, according to a statement issued by Alicia A. G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Aguilar, an attorney, responded to an email solicitation for a lawyer and had entered into a lawyer-client relationship with the soliciting party. The client

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DPS to stop non-emergency services

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

To save on funding and resources, the Department of Public Safety will suspend public services it considers non-emergency and non-essential, effective Sept. 12, 2010.

Police spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. said yesterday that DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela issued the directive to stop non-essential and non-emergency services due to financial

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center left, is flanked by local and federal emergency response agency representatives after he signed a proclamation declaring September 2010 CNMI Disaster Preparedness Month yesterday morning in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill. Fitial said that, while disasters cannot be prevented, their effects can be mitigated through well-organized public education, risk assessment, and proper planning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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Local

Fitial: CNMI, ICE still negotiating use of prison

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday the CNMI government and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement are still negotiating on the federal agency's use of the Susupe prison for its own detainees.

"It's still ongoing," Fitial said after signing two proclamations yesterday morning declaring September 2010 CNMI Disaster Preparedness Month and National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

Fitial said ICE has not agreed yet to the CNMI's offered rate for the use of the facility.

"My first offer still stands and I'm hoping they would just accept that because that is very reasonable. Everything is transparent. We showed them all the cost factors. I guess they're just taking their time," Fitial added.

The rate proposals endorsed in principle and offered by the CNMI to ICE are:

1) $84 per detainee per day, with a dedicated housing unit with utilities only; or

2) $105 per detainee per day with a dedicated housing unit with utilities and services included, except for medical care and services outside the facility.

The governor said there is no deadline for a decision to be made.

"No deadline. It's up to them. They haven't come back with any definitive decision," he added.

Negotiations between ICE and the CNMI began on Oct. 13, 2009, just before the federal government took control of CNMI immigration on Nov. 28, 2009.

ICE is one of the component agencies of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the lead agency implementing federalization of the CNMI.

Currently, only the U.S. Marshals Service has an agreement with the CNMI government on the use of the prison for federal detainees.

Under the existing Inter-Governmental Agreement between the CNMI Department of Corrections and the U.S. Marshals Service, the local prison complex is paid $77 per detainee per day.

Medical services, including emergency medical care outside the facility, guard and transportation services are not included.

The U.S. Marshals Service is billed for guard and transportation services.

NMC interim president in Guam for 3-day energy confab

Interim Northern Marianas College president Lorraine T. Cabrera flew to Guam for a three-day conference on sustainable energy, in preparation for a similar conference the Commonwealth will host sometime next month.

In a statement to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, NMC said that Cabrera's presence at the conference is important because she chairs the CNMI energy steering committee and her attendance will help place the college at the forefront of the CNMI's energy sustainability initiatives.

"The college will be helping to lead training and education efforts for CNMI agencies and organizations," according to the statement.

Cabrera will also be leading efforts to organize a similar symposium on the island next month. While in Guam, she will be meeting with representatives from Natural Renewable Energy Laboratory and from the Department of the Interior to finalize plans for the October event.

The interim president will also be meeting with the executive director of the Pacific Post-Secondary Education Council to discuss various issues, including accreditation matters.

The PPEC is composed of chief executive officers and presidents of the region's colleges and universities, including American Samoa Community College, the College of Micronesia-FSM, the College of the Marshall Islands, Guam Community College, Palau Community College, the University of Guam, the University of Hawaii Community College System office, the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hawaii Community College, Honolulu Community College, and Kapiolani Community College.

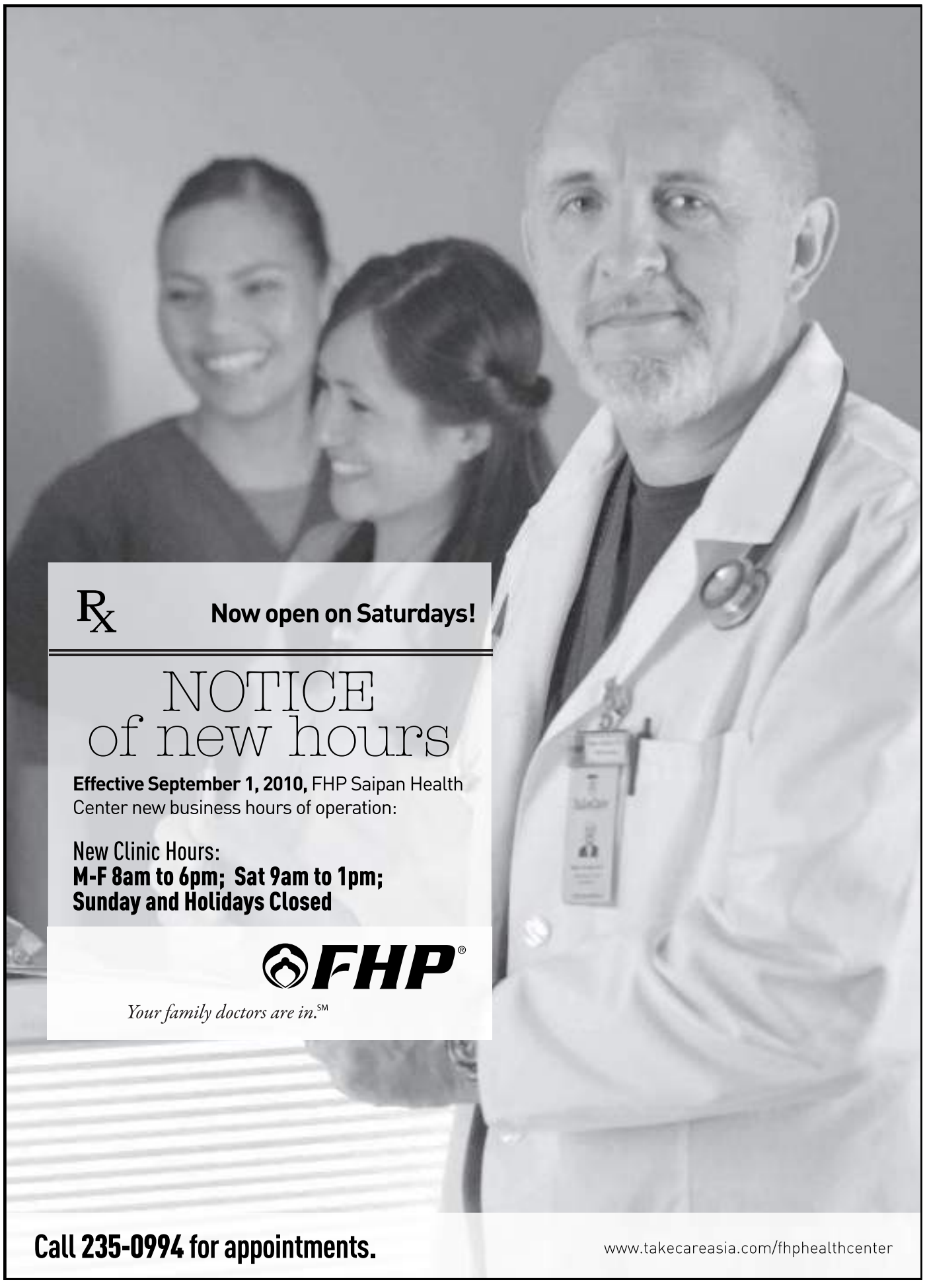
NMC has assured that its efforts to address accreditation concerns will not be affected by Cabrera's travel.

"My short time away from the CNMI in no way slows the progress we're making in complying with accreditation standards and eligibility requirements. Our accreditation efforts, led by able and competent members of NMC's management team, continue at full speed."

NMC was placed again on show-cause status for failing to sustain its compliance with the accreditation's eligibility standards. It has until Oct. 15 to complete the requirements.

"While she is away, the college continues to work on the accreditation report that is due to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges on Oct. 15, 2010," the statement added.

In Cabrera's absence, Barbara Merfalen, dean of Academic Programs and Services, is the acting interim president. ***(Moneth Deposa)***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Air Force sets training on FDM

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Sept. 7-10, from 7am to 1am.

The general public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from these areas during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Farallon de Medinilla's location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. Also, Farallon's air and sea space provides enough room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the CNMI. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

Head Start Policy Council
Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on September 9, 2010 (Thursday) from 5:30pm-7:30pm, Chalan Kanoa Head Start Center Resource Room, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes
   a. August 5, 2010-Regular Meeting
   b. August 20, 2010-Special Meeting

II. Public Comments

III. Communications
1. From the State Board of Education
   a. Memo dtd August 19, 2010: DOA Acting Director
   b. Memo dtd August 17, 2010: Interim Director
   c. Signed Corrective Actions to FY 10 OHS Monitoring
   d. Revised Policy 8050-ERSEA
2. From the Office of Head Start
   a. Memo dtd July 29, 2010: Maternal Infant Home Visiting
   b. Memo dtd July 28, 2010: Child Welfare System
   c. Outer Pacific Director's Cluster Meeting

IV. Monthly Reports
1. Director
2. Managers
3. Finance
4. Council Standing Committees
   a. Personnel
   b. Education
   c. Executive
   d. Finance
   e. Public Relations

V. Old Business
1. Review of Revised Policy 8000

VI. New Business

VII. Executive Session

VIII. Next Meeting

IX. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. Public Comments are limited to 15 minutes; therefore comments are limited to 3 minutes each.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Q. Celis at 664-3761; several days notice is required.

/s/ Mr. Gene Weaver
Chairperson

NMPASI praised for its clean audit

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. has received a clean audit report review from the Department of Health & Human Services for fiscal year 2009, in contrast to a slew of controversial audits on government agencies receiving federal grants.

In a letter dated Aug. 20 to the NMPASI board of directors, Regional Inspector General for Audit Services Patrick J. Cogley said they completed the initial review of the audit report on NMPASI for period Oct. 1, 2008 to Sept. 30, 2009.

J. Scott Magliari and Company did the audit report, which the Federal Audit Clearinghouse received on March 24.

According to Cogley, "there were no findings associated with this report that were identified for formal resolution action by the Department of Health and Human Services."

"Having a clean audit with multiple funding sources in annual federal funding is the direct result of staff and board members holding each other accountable to the highest standards of integrity and transparency in the course of carrying out their fiduciary duties," said NMPASI executive director Jim Rayphand.

According to Rayphand, one of the key components in successfully managing federal programs is to implement safeguards that provide internal control to allow for efficient and timely flow of funds in the direction of their intended purpose.

Rayphand told *Saipan Tribune* that good audits like theirs "would go a long way in generating hope, inspiration among our citizens—not all programs/funds being administered in the CNMI are in doom and gloom mode."

Rayphand said NMPASI will continue with their commitment to facilitate transparency in their administered programs.

Established in 1993, NMPASI is a non-profit organization with the mission to protect the civil, legal, and human interests of persons with disabilities.

NMPASI also receives funding from the U.S. Department of Education and the Social Security Administration.

Suspect in knife, rock attack dies; court junks case

The Superior Court has dismissed a criminal case against a 55-year-old man facing charges for knife and rock attack after learning that the suspect passed away last month.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed the case that charged Sylvanus Flores Santos with assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and two counts of disturbing the peace.

Manglona ordered that any bail posted is exonerated and shall be released to the posting party.

Assistant attorney general Benjamin K. Petersburg moved to dismiss the case as the suspect had died.

Petersburg said that Santos passed away on Aug. 15, 2010, based on information from the Commonwealth Health Center,

The Office of the Attorney General alleged that on April 21, 2009, on Saipan, Santos assaulted Swayne Orlando Mad with a knife and rock.

The OAG said Santos also disturbed the peace of Swayne Mad and Okrang Sengkichi Mad, both household members of the suspect. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Health care reform: A cause of concern for the CNMI

The Commonwealth has been struggling to assess the impending impact of the recently enacted national health care act. On a recent trip to Seattle, CNMI Secretary of Commerce Michael Ada, who also serves as the CNMI's Insurance Commissioner, attended the National Association of Insurance Commissioners Summer Meeting where the implementation of the health care reform law was the center of the quarterly meeting discussions. The NAIC has provided the CNMI with a white paper that assessed the impact of the health care act on the insular areas, while the Congressional Research Center further clarified relevant provisions of the laws to the CNMI.

While the legal analysis has been performed by both the NAIC and Congressional Research Center, Ada believes there still remains outstanding issues that warrant clarification. Among his primary concerns are the provisions that the CNMI is subject to in terms of data collection and unintended consequences that stem from the CNMI's unique differences in health care delivery and insurance costs. The national health care reform act impacts health care delivery and availability of affordable health insurance coverage.

While Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez serves as the CNMI's State Lead on the health care reforms, DPH has partnered with Commerce to address the issues facing availability of health care coverage. The CNMI's insurance industry has also weighed in on the discussion as health care insurers will be facing dramatic changes that will impact operations in a significant way.

"With the mandates that the laws place on insurance companies, operations will be significantly impacted. Two of the largest impacts are the increase in Medicaid funding availability and the Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) that are applied to health care insurers. With an increase in Medicaid funding and expansion of eligibility, we anticipate that a large portion of folks who are currently insured through private insurance will qualify for Medicaid and opt to leave private health care insurance. This expands the Medicaid base and shrinks the marketplace for private insurance firms. In addition, the MLR places significant restrictions on operations, which impacts profitability. The fear is that the law will essentially drive health care insurers out of business. While it is my duty to ensure consumer protection on insurance products, it is also my mandate to ensure that the industry is protected," said Ada.

Deputy Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar, who joined Ada in the Seattle meeting, identified two grant applications that the Commerce Department is working on to address the issues. One of the grant applications allows for a minimum of $1 million to aid in developing a rate review office, while the other establishes an Insurance Ombudsman office.

"The rate review grant is one that DHHS has indicated they will reopen specifically for the insular areas as the initial funding announcement was limited to 51 of the 56 Insurance Commissioners. During the NAIC Western Zone meetings, Secretary Ada and Guam Insurance Commissioner, John Camacho, advocated for inclusion in the funding. This grant will allow us to establish a rate review office, which will evaluate MLR's for health care insurers, and allow for electronic form filings. We hope to staff this office with 5 FTE's for a period of two years. The Ombudsman grant is due in early September and will be utilized to hire an Insurance Ombudsman, who will be tasked as the central point for all health care insurance questions. We are partnering with DPH to strategize on the best way to address the implementation of these offices in relation to the changes in law," said Igisomar.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez, chairman of the Commerce and Tourism Committee, also joined Ada and Igisomar for the NAIC Summer meeting. During his orientation to the NAIC, Rep. Villagomez was alerted to many of the issues relevant to the insurance industry in the CNMI. ***(PR)***

NMC welcomes 20 Rota students

Twenty students from Rota have enrolled at the Northern Marianas College this fall semester and they were recently welcomed to the island by Rep. Teresita A. Santos.

The Rota lawmaker hosted a special gathering Wednesday for the returning students at the Saipan D&H Apartment adjacent to the NMC campus within the Fina Sisu Village.

Santos said the purpose of the dinner get-together was to provide an opportunity for Rota students to discuss with her matters pertaining to their transition, adjustment, and assistance she can provide.

The occasion resulted in a decision to make the gathering a regular event where students can share issues and concerns with their elected representative.

Santos believes a periodic gathering of Rota students will help formulate ideas and solutions to problems.

"After the gathering, students strongly recommended a periodic gathering to share issues or concerns with their elected leaders so together they would be able to echo their inputs and assist in addressing issues affecting their island," a statement from the office of Rep. Santos said.

Academic programs at NMC's instructional sites on both Rota and Tinian were suspended in 2008, as the sites were not provided the same educational services offered at its Saipan campus. Since then, NMC has assisted Rota and Tinian students in transferring and moving to the main campus to continue their programs and courses.

Federal programs and certificate programs remain available on Tinian and Rota. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

CASINO

From Page 1

from voting, while Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan) was absent.

Taimanao, in an interview during a session break, said she abstained from voting because she wanted the people of Saipan to decide on allowing casino operation on their island.

She said in the absence of other revenue-generating industries on Saipan besides tourism, casino operation would be able to help the economy but again, she wants Saipan voters to decide on this matter.

"I'd rather abstain than say yes or no," she added.

When Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) read the results of the voting on the casino bill, 7-0, with one abstention, the crowd erupted in cheers.

Among those in the crowd gathered in the cafeteria of Tinian Elementary School who voiced opposition to the Saipan casino bill were Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, former Tinian mayor Ike Quichocho, former senator Jose M. Dela Cruz, and resident Francisco A. Hocog.

Tom Liu, general manager of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, said they are pleased to hear the vote on the Saipan casino bill, and thanked the senators for not passing it.

He said having a casino industry on Saipan will compete with the struggling casino industry on Tinian. Dynasty has been in operation for 12 years. Liu said they have barely recouped their investments.

Liu also said that Tinian Dynasty is not shutting down, contrary to the House speaker's statement when the House passed his casino bill last week.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) made the motion to vote on the casino measure.

Prior to voting on the bill, senators took turns explaining their position on the casino measure. Almost all of them spoke in the vernacular.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) was the first one to share his thoughts on why he would vote "no" on the bill, citing its ill effects on the casino industries on Tinian and Rota.

"I will not support this bill also because I believe it's not right for one member of the House to persuade or undermine other members. The people of Saipan should be the one to vote on the casino bill," he said.

Hofschneider was the second one to explain his vote, followed by Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), Taimanao, and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian).

Reyes said senators must respect the voice of the Saipan voters when they twice rejected the casino initiative; the last time was in 2007.

Chelette San Nicolas, a Tinian resident who was present at the Senate session, said she was relieved that the casino bill failed to pass because Saipan voters already voted down the initiative years back.

"There's already an industry on Tinian and soon Rota, so why not just help these industries instead of compete with them?" she said in an interview.

Another Tinian resident said she's glad the senators left it up to Saipan voters to decide whether to allow casinos on the island.

HB 17-55, HS1 passed the House on a 10-6 vote with three abstentions.

The speaker's substitute casino bill increases the share of casino gaming revenue for Rota and Tinian, from only 2.5 percent each to 25 percent each. Saipan will get 50 percent.

DPS

From Page 1

constrains and the burdening of resources.

Most of these services the department renders for free.

Services that will be suspended include police escorts, shoreline security protection, towing of privately owned boats, marine events, special events, and non-emergency locked vehicles.

Blas said other services that will be stopped are search and rescue operations performed after the first 72 hours, as well as response to a private security alarm, whether such alarm is active or not.

With respect to funeral escorts, DPS will provide one marked vehicle or motorcycle.

"No other personnel shall be used for traffic control at traffic light intersections or any other intersections. The motorcade shall follow all traffic laws including traffic signal lights and intersection control," the DPS spokesman said.

Blas stated that the need to hold or divert traffic is not necessary as the motorcade is non-emergency and is not required to travel in speeds above the posted speed limit.

"Any future requests for officers or vehicles for this type of services shall be charged the necessary service fee," he added.

GUERRERO

From Page 1

Oct. 15, 2010, at 7am.

Before pronouncing the sentence, the judge asked Guerrero if he has anything to say. The businessman, who appeared with his counsel Steven Pixley, said no.

Assistant attorney general Benjamin Petersburg appeared at the hearing for the government.

Guerrero was sentenced to 60 days in prison, all suspended except for the first five days, with credit for the two hours that he had already served in jail.

He was also required to pay a $1,100 fine for driving under the influence and for speeding.

For refusing to submit to a breath test, the judge suspended Guerrero's driver's license for 30 days without any privilege.

Five months after, Guerrero will be given a limited privilege to drive to and from work or during work, on emergency, or any other exception previously approved by a probation officer.

Guerrero will be placed on a one-year probation and required to pay a $100 probation fee and a $25 court assessment fee.

During his probation, he is prohibited from possessing or consuming any alcoholic beverages and from entering any establishment whose primary purpose is the sale of alcohol. He will be required to submit to a urinalysis, portable breath test, intoximeter or similar test at the request of a probation officer to monitor compliance.

Guerrero will return to court on Nov. 29, 2010, for a review hearing to determine whether he has complied with the terms and conditions of his sentence.

On Aug. 20, 2010, after a bench trial, Manglona found Guerrero guilty of DUI, speeding by failing to maintain a clear distance, and refusal to submit to a breath test.

Manglona acquitted Guerrero of reckless driving.

The incident happened on the night of March 4, 2010, when Guerrero was driving a car that hit another vehicle being driven by Chester Cuento at the northbound lane of Middle Road in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Guerrero testified that he was not speeding and that after the crash he even called 911. He admitted he had a glass of wine that he drank with ice.

Guerrero stated that he wanted to have the field sobriety test at the scene to show the officers that he was not under the influence of alcohol, but the officers refused as it was dark in the area.

Guerrero was one of four gubernatorial candidates in the November 2009 general election. He used to serve as a congressman and a senator.

AGUILAR

From Page 1

mailed Aguilar a check that Aguilar then deposited into his business account at a Guam bank, with the understanding that the check would be used to pay Aguilar's legal fees or commission, and the remaining amount would be forwarded to a company in Korea. Aguilar then transferred most of the funds to a second bank and was making withdrawals from that account.

It was later learned that the email solicitation was part of an international Internet fraud scheme from Hong Kong targeting attorneys, and that the check was a forgery.

After learning from the first bank that the check was fraudulent, Aguilar continued to withdraw funds from the second bank and used it to pay off his personal and business debts.

As part of his plea bargain, he agreed to fully cooperate in the investigation of the Internet scam and full payment of restitution to the victim bank under strict terms and conditions.

The District Court of Guam accepted the terms and conditions of the plea agreement and sentenced Aguilar to 60 months probation, full payment of restitution, and to the terms and conditions of the agreement.

Limtiaco stated: "In cases where money is stolen, victims want to be made whole and want restitution and to recover what was taken from them. The Department of Justice is committed to making victims whole by ensuring they recover the money or property taken from the defendant. Internet scams are everywhere but it does not excuse the actions of defendants who, upon becoming aware of the scam, continue to participate in it because doing so can cost more than just money, it can result in criminal charges."

The Internal Revenue Service led the investigation with the assistance of the U.S. Secret Service.

Assistant United States Attorney Eric O'Malley, from the District of the Northern Mariana Islands where the case was originally charged, represented the government. ***(U.S. Attorney's Office)***

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Trying to make sense of North Korea

If extraterrestrial creatures ever land on this planet and an intermediary is needed to meet with them, earthlings could do worse than to send former President Jimmy Carter. After his latest trip to Pyongyang to negotiate with the North Korean government, he is well-equipped to try to decipher the motives of strange aliens who do not behave according to our ideas of rationality.

Carter was able to persuade the regime of Kim Jong Il to release American Aijalon Mahli Gomes, who had been sentenced to eight years of hard labor for entering the country illegally. The harsh penalty may be attributable to the North Koreans' alarm at anyone lunatic enough to want to sneak in rather than out.

The odd thing about this visit—well, odder than most visits to the Hermit Kingdom—was that Carter came at the invitation of Kim, who apparently didn't think his visitor was important enough to stick around for. He took the occasion to absent himself to China.

As with most events involving the regime, there was a lot of idle speculation about Kim's reasons, but no useful information. One possibility is that Kim, who at age 68 is believed to be in failing health, was in a hurry to introduce his Chinese benefactors to his heir apparent, Kim Jong Un, who happens to be the Dear Leader's third son.

Apparently, the dictatorship of the proletariat relies heavily on family connections. It might surprise Karl Marx to learn that in the 21st century, rulers who claim him as inspiration, such as Kim and Fidel Castro, operate like medieval monarchs in transferring power.

Why Kim would pick his third son to succeed him rather than either of his first two is another mystery. One may have disqualified himself by traveling to Japan on a counterfeit passport, allegedly in an effort to visit Disneyland. Another has a reputation as "girlish." Son No. 3, thought to be about 27, is young, but is said to resemble his father in physique and viciousness.

The latter trait matters greatly to a regime that specializes in thuggery and threats. The latest example: the reported sinking of a South Korean naval vessel last spring in South Korean waters, an unprovoked act of war.

Although everyone knows it was the work of a North Korean submarine, hardly anyone has the stomach for military retaliation. The maddening thing is that North Korea would undoubtedly be pulverized in a war with South Korea and the United States, but the damage the nuclear-armed state could inflict while losing is too high to pay. So unless China is uncharacteristically willing to economically squeeze its client state, North Korea will probably get off easy, as it often does.

Xenophobic, bellicose and clinging to a form of government that the 20th century exposed as criminal folly, North Korea's leaders may not understand many things about the modern world. They do know the one thing they care about: how to keep their power and survive in it.

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A heavy price to ending birthright citizenship

By JULIE M. WEISE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

We can already see the future of our nation if it renounces birthright citizenship for the children of undocumented immigrants, and it isn't pretty. Dragging economies, new forms of fraud, a disenfranchised underclass, children deported to places they have never even visited—countries that do not have birthright citizenship have experienced these problems and more, and have been forced to reconsider their practices. Germany, Israel and Japan are just three of those countries, and their experiences have much to teach us.

The current debate about the future of the Constitution's 14th Amendment, which guarantees citizenship for all born on U.S. soil, centers on the question of individual fairness: Should these children have the right to U.S. citizenship although their birth on U.S. soil was the result of their parents' unauthorized presence here? The debate is really about what citizenship and belonging mean in the United States—profound and important issues but not ones that draw easy consensus. But if we ask what will happen to our society as a whole if we eliminate birthright citizenship, the facts become easy to see.

Since the birth of modern Germany, that country has followed the jus sanguinis, or "right of blood," principle of citizenship, in which any German descendant could claim German citizenship while the children of foreigners—even legal immigrants—born in Germany could not. To meet labor needs while keeping Germany as German as possible, the government implemented guest-worker programs to bring in foreigners for temporary stays.

But things did not work out as planned. Some guest workers remained, and as the economy grew and the workforce aged, immigrants kept coming—both inside and outside the law. Their German-born noncitizen children began to form a vast underclass. These children had known only Germany and German in their young lives but were stuck in a no man's land as people without a country.

So in 2000, Germany made its citizenship laws just a little more like ours. Children born on German soil could claim German citizenship, but only if at least one of their parents had lived in the country legally for eight years. The children born in Germany of two undocumented parents still are not German citizens at birth. The result is an underground market in fraudulent paternity, in which German men who are citizens—derogatorily known as imbissvaeter, or fast-food fathers—claim to be a child's father in exchange for a fee, thus enabling the child to be a German citizen.

Far from promoting the rule of law, Germany's approach to citizenship has created a mess. Unless the U.S. implemented mandatory DNA testing, which many would consider an invasion of privacy, it is likely that a similar black market in paternity would emerge here if birthright citizenship were eliminated.

Over its 60 years of existence, Israel also has had a jus sanguinis system, in which Jews the world over and the descendants of Israeli Arabs can claim citizenship but the children of foreign workers born on Israeli soil cannot. Like Germany, Israel sought to meet labor needs by importing temporary workers—largely from Asia and Eastern Europe—who did not end up being so temporary. The result: The Israeli government announced in August plans to deport 400 Israeli-born children of non-Jewish immigrants. These are children who speak Hebrew, have always expected to perform the obligatory military service that Israel requires of its citizens and know Israel as their only home.

The controversy is dividing Israel. The national organization of Holocaust survivors has called for a halt to the deportations, expressing its sense of shame that "a Jewish government could operate without a conscience and in such an inhumane way." Israelis have taken to the streets to demand that their system move just a step toward the U.S. system and at least grant these children legal residency status.

Some say birthright citizenship motivates immigration, and thus a country without it will attract fewer immigrants. Well, not in Japan. Japan is an island nation, has never had a large guest-worker program and does not confer birthright citizenship. But in recent decades, these policies became a drag on the economy, creating labor shortages and making it difficult to attract high-skilled immigrants.

Change has been slow, but Japan is reexamining its approach to immigration and has given residency status to tens of thousands of "foreigners" born on Japanese soil. Though Japan has fewer immigrants than most developed countries, in 2008 more immigrants than ever before—including 100,000 undocumented immigrants—lived within its borders.

In recent decades, other countries such as Australia and Britain that once conferred automatic birthright citizenship have added limitations for the children of undocumented immigrants. They too found that restrictions on birthright citizenship did not slow undocumented immigration.

Americans will have different opinions on what is fair to taxpayers or innocent children, to would-be immigrants waiting "in line" abroad or undocumented parents already here, to low-skilled American workers or striving newcomers seeking the American dream. What we have seen, however, is that when a country does not offer citizenship to all born on its soil, society as a whole suffers the consequences.

Julie M. Weise is an assistant professor in the international studies program at Cal State Long Beach. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Run Qi Run Li run

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Qun "Papasang" Yu was found wet and aimlessly walking up Marpi when authorities caught up with him. He is the other half of the alleged ice-distributing duo who got away from a sting operation. Partner Zhang "Coco" Ling is already in custody, and her captors hopefully may notice withdrawal symptoms, allegedly noticed by acquaintances prior to her capture, when she had difficulty obtaining the object of her trade.

To say that "ice" consumption in the CNMI has reached epidemic proportion might now be an understatement. Though the estimate of 80 percent of locals uses the stuff' is overblown, it used by a felon who has since departed back to his country of origin. The rampant stealing of laptops (including my two MacBooks, ouch!) is primarily attributed to guys who will not even bother to trade it with cash, if one had ice to offer!

At least, Qun (pronounced Chun) Yu was found alive. Another is yet to be found. Infamous Qi (pronounced Chi) Run Li, former proprietor of the Kings Disco Club, and erstwhile "taxi" driver, disappeared last July and his whereabouts remain unknown, though there are conflicting news of his whereabouts and state of being. Last month, we passed on to our editor a tidbit of information from one of the unregistered taxi drivers that Li was found bound and dead in an Oleai house. He got a reporter to clarify the news from the authorities. Nada. It turned out to be a daytime panihi chase. Now, the latest word is that he is on the run, and managed to cross the waters into Guam. I find this to be as dubious as the first alert but it does beg the question, does Li have any reason to run?

A year ago, in Manchuria, I saw an ad inviting Chinese to come to the CNMI as tourist @ $6K per head. Back on Saipan, I met persons from Sichuan who paid $12K per to come to the CNMI, get a promised job and change residency status. Two Sichuan ladies I knew last year had no other option but to work the night shift! Of course, we also have the infamous Saipan University fiasco. Each of the students paid considerable funds to attend a non-operational university sponsored by local dignitaries. A certain Mr. Park is spending time in prison for this fraud, but we never heard what happened to those who colluded to his nefarious scheme. With more than a hundred victims, the take would have been considerable.

It now appears that our Mr. Li was responsible for bringing in 40 people as tourist to the CNMI with the promise that if they stay and weather the immigration uncertainty, they would receive amnesty-like status when the feds took. Immediate relatives of Li, who turn out to be financially well off, alleged that most of the 40 were kin and close friends so they do not expect any residual grudges, discarding the suggestion that Li was under threat and has reasons to run and hide.

On my third year on island, a Hong Kong businessman told me that the cost of life on Saipan was quantifiable: $10K per head dead. The price goes down as the order of pain infliction descended from maim to loss of extremities and limb, from deformities to scars and mars. It was rather chilling, the casualness of the telling, and the precision of the price!

Anyway, Qi Run Li could not possibly pull off the massive paperwork involved in bringing in 40 tourists into the Commonwealth without local assistance. There would be a paper trail at the CNMI immigration office of those who signed on as local sponsor(s), or guarantor(s). Would it be too much to ask where the immigration's paperwork are, and make that for the last two years while we are at it, and would we not want to know who had been sponsors to our numerous overstaying tourists of various nationalities? This is one area where one can separate the chaff from the grain on immigration. DoI recommends improved status for those who had been here legally for at least five years! Overstaying tourists are not legal!

A reformed ex-ice distributor alleged that his job was to distribute ice to a network of recipients since the item was a preferred medium of exchange for official favors rather than cash. His revelation on the extent of reach among uniformed personal was alarming. I have steadily written about "ice," in case authorities responsible for controlled substances care to check on the veracity of what I am writing about. The demand is high, without a doubt, and with rogue states like North Korea providing ample supply, plus a high percentage of island unemployment, is it really that difficult to connect the dots?

Gift-giving is a treasured island tradition, especially when returning from travel, and a customs officer once lamented over his beer that he really did not wish to receive gifts "from this guy" every time he returned because he wanted to examine his luggage, but everyone else received gifts and he did not wish to be not "one of the boys."

The Watergate lesson was to follow the money. I wonder if the feds who investigated Mr. Park ever chased the money trail; and would it be possible to do the same with Qi Run Li. This would be an area where his family, if they really want to know what happened to Li, might offer some cooperation.

Ah, but here I am trying to do something Joe Saipan Mango Race is better equipped to do. Qi Run Li sounds like the title of a detective story. Take it away, Joe!

If only Iraq were really over

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

You might have thought the Iraq war was over after listening to President Obama on Tuesday.

Eager to unload the albatross he inherited, Obama proclaimed that the American combat mission had ended. "We have met our responsibility," he said. "Now it is time to turn the page."

Would that it were so easy. The Iraq struggle has not yet ended; it is only entering a new phase. We will be ensnared in the legacy of this war long after our combat troops leave.

Indeed, there was an oddly static quality to Obama's remarks on the Iraq war. He didn't talk of the past seven years of struggle or the flawed Bush administration policies that led to Iraq's near-implosion.

As for the future, he touched on plans for "long-term partnership" with Iraq and greater diplomatic involvement. But he did not explain what this will mean or promote the idea to the public.

The president knows Americans are weary of the Iraq war; polls show they don't think it was worth fighting. So his emphasis was on moving on.

I can understand Obama's reluctance to reopen partisan wounds over the Iraq issue; to the contrary, he stressed he had phoned President George W. Bush on the day of the speech, and repeatedly praised the service of our troops. But the past seven years of war can't be airbrushed away, even if many Americans would like that. We have to digest the meaning of this tragic encounter, which will continue to haunt us and Iraqis as well.

Ironically, some Republicans criticized Obama for not giving Bush credit for the troop "surge" that helped halt Iraq's sectarian fighting. But Obama could not have invoked the surge without revisiting the errors that led to the war's inception. Nor can the surge obscure the Bush White House's arrogant mismanagement of the postwar period, which caused hideous suffering for Iraqis and loss of life for our troops.

Yes, the surge—or, more correctly, the strategy of Gen. David Petraeus and key officers—helped stop Iraq's civil war. But the Bush team's predictions about the war's strategic benefits for us and the region proved dangerously wrong.

Bush administration officials insisted that Saddam Hussein's fall would usher in a new era of democracy in the Middle East. Iran's theocracy would be the next domino to fall, and Arab-Israeli peace would follow.

Instead, postwar chaos in Iraq soiled democracy's name in the region. Autocracy remains triumphant. Iraq is a democracy in name, yet five months after elections, its sectarian factions can't form a government.

Meantime, the elimination of Saddam left Iran the strongest power in the region, and its influence has grown steadily over the past seven years. The Mideast peace process froze, and it is being revived—barely—only this week.

Given U.S. failures in postwar Iraq, American competence and capacity are in question throughout the Middle East and beyond. Our influence in this critical region is waning, which hurts our ability to promote Mideast peace talks and deal with Iran.

In Iraq, we spent (and wasted) billions, yet Iraqi infrastructure remains broken. The most visible symptom of failure: Electricity is delivered only a few hours a day as temperatures hit 120 degrees.

Although violence is down, Iraq's educated middle class has been decimated. At least 100,000 Iraqi civilians have died since we invaded, and millions more are still refugees. Iraqi women were once the most advanced in the region, but their position has grown much worse.

The American impulse, as reflected in Obama's speech, will be to move on, especially given our own economic problems and our commitment in Afghanistan. Yet—although Iraq is very much Bush's war, and its tragedies his responsibility—Obama can't turn the page. The next phase of Iraq's struggle will happen on his watch.

Iraq's future is uncertain, but we can still play an important role there, devoid of past illusions. We should commit wholeheartedly to the long-term civilian partnership we've signed on to, but which Congress may be reluctant to fund. If Iraqis want us to keep some troops there after 2011, we should do so to prevent a power vacuum that others will fill.

We have a strategic interest in ensuring Iraq doesn't sink back into chaos or dictatorship. But we also have a moral duty. We owe it to 4,400 dead U.S. troops and untold thousands of slain Iraqis to keep trying to make the country whole.

Eligible immigrants should become citizens now

By JULEYKA LANTIGUA-WILLIAMS
PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

Right now is a crucial moment for qualified immigrants to become naturalized American citizens.

The political climate of the last two years has stirred many anti-immigrant sentiments. As a naturalized citizen, I have witnessed some of the strongest backlash against people like me: new Americans who came from somewhere else and made this country our home.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, in 2009 more than 743,000 people were naturalized. The largest number of new citizens were from Mexico (111,630), followed by India (52,889), the Philippines (38,934), China (37,130) and Vietnam (31,168).

Voter turnout by these new American voters may influence some of this year's hotly contested congressional midterm elections.

If you qualify to become a citizen, do it now and make your voice heard. And don't be dissuaded by the myths surrounding the process of becoming a citizen.

Myth: It's difficult to qualify.

Fact: It's simple. Here's all you need: You must be at least 18; you must have been a permanent resident for five years (three years if married to a U.S. citizen); and you must have lived continuously and physically in the United States for those years.

Myth: You must speak perfect English to qualify.

Fact: The written test and verbal interviews can be done in a language other than English, including Spanish, Chinese or Vietnamese. To qualify for this exception, you must have lived in the United States 20 years or more, or you must have been a legal permanent resident for at least five years and be more than 50 years old, or you must be 55 years of age and have been a legal permanent resident for at least 15 years. There are also special exceptions for people 65 and older, as well as those with disabilities.

Myth: Special agencies and/or lawyers are needed to apply for naturalization.

Fact: Most people do not need to hire special agents or lawyers, who often charge exorbitant fees. For official information, forms and step-by-step guides, visit the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website, www.uscis.gov. You can do it yourself, and all by U.S. mail.

Myth: Dual citizenship is not possible.

Facts: Although the oath taken does include a renouncing of any other citizenship, the United States allows its citizens to maintain dual citizenships with many countries.

Myth: It costs thousands to apply.

Fact: The total cost is $675, payable by money order to Department of Homeland Security.

For me, becoming a full-fledged citizen was a practical and defining step in establishing my life in this country. One of my first acts was to register to vote in the presidential election occurring a few months after I took the oath. I have been diligent in voting ever since and treasure my contribution to our thriving democracy.

Like me, there are millions of new Americans who should avail themselves of this precious opportunity.

Juleyka Lantigua-Williams is a writer for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine. Readers may write to the author at: Progressive Media Project, 409 East Main Street, Madison, Wis. 53703; e-mail: pmproj@progressive.org; Web site: www.progressive.org. For information on PMP's funding, please visit http://www.progressive.org/pmpabout.html#anchorsupport.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼78
Palau	Rain	▲87	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲89	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲86	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼50
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼66
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87	▼72
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼74
London	Fog	▲70	▼54
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲89	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲57	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼79
New York	Windy	▲77	▼59
Osaka	Sunny	▲95	▼76
Paris	Fog	▲75	▼53
Pusan	Sunny	▲87	▼76
Rome	Sunny	▲87	▼65
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼51
San Francisco	Sunny	▲67	▼57
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲87	▼74
Tokyo	Sunny	▲94	▼80
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼62

Yesterday's Satellite Image

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical depression 10W is centered at 21N135E about 820 miles northwest of Guam and moving northwest at 17 mph with maximum winds of 35 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the center within 65 miles of 21N136E. For more information on tropical depression 10W, see public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ33 PGUM and bulletins from JTWC under WMO header WTPN33 PGTW. A monsoon trough extends eastward from Luzon to a weak circulation centered well northwest of Palau at 17N130E then continues northeastward to tropical depression 10W. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near the trough axis over the Philippine Sea or west of a line from 22N131E to 14N135E. Similar conditions are also seen farther south of 10W within 85 miles of a line from 20N138E to 17N136E. Trade winds converging into a ridge axis southeast of the monsoon trough are coupling with divergent upper winds to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from the Marianas to just north of Yap or in an area bounded by a line from 10N137E to 22N146E to 19N153E to 11N154E back to 10N137E. Widely scattered showers are present south of Koror and Yap within 120 miles of a line from 4N130E to 8N143E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering widely scattered showers south of Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 5N150E to 6N158E and also over Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 5N168E to 8N180. Identical weather is evident northeast of Pohnpei within 90 miles of 13N160E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:57 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:52 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:22 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
10:19 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:26 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:25 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:21 AM	2:44 PM
Sunday	2:23 AM	3:38 PM
Monday	3:26 AM	4:29 PM
Tuesday	4:28 AM	5:17 PM
Wednesday	5:30 AM	6:04 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday	
9am	Sunday school
10am	Regular worship
6pm	worship
Wednesday	
7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service
located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want to have your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call Saipan Tribune at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Business

Jobs report may show rise in unemployment rate

WASHINGTON (AP)—The unemployment rate may be about to rise again.

Economists are bracing for a weak showing in the August employment report, which is scheduled to be released Friday. The private sector is forecast to add a net total of only 41,000 jobs, the fewest since January, which isn't enough to keep up with population growth. The jobless rate is expected to increase to 9.6 percent from 9.5 percent, the first rise since April.

The anemic economy is causing companies to conserve cash and hold back on hiring. While most economists expect the nation to avoid another recession, growth will likely be so weak for the rest of this year that the jobless rate could move back above 10 percent by early next year.

"Ultimately, businesses will hire if they feel confident there will be revenue growth in the future," said Julie Coronado, an economist at BNP Paribas. "But we're growing at a pretty slow pace."

Overall, total payrolls are forecast to drop by 100,000, because about 115,000 temporary census jobs ended last month.

The weak pace of job creation is raising concerns among economists about whether the economy can keep growing after government programs, such as the homebuyer's tax credit, ends.

"The idea is that as the stimulus falls away, the private sector is supposed to pick up steam," said Scott Brown, an economist at Raymond James.

Instead, businesses now face uncertainty about whether tax cuts enacted in 2001 and 2003 will be allowed to expire, Brown noted, which "isn't helpful."

But rising unemployment may force Congress to resolve that uncertainty. An increasing number of Democrats are joining congressional Republicans in opposing President Barack Obama's plans to let tax cuts on upper income earners end.

A jobless rate nearing 10 percent would also raise pressure on the Federal Reserve to do more to jump start the economy. Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke said last week the central bank will take more steps if necessary. But he also said the foundations have already been laid for economic growth to accelerate next year.

There were some positive economic reports Thursday. Figures on unemployment claims, store sales and homebuying contracts all trended in the right direction, allaying fears that the economy is on the brink of another stumble.

For now, companies aren't resorting to widespread layoffs. New applications for unemployment benefits declined for the second straight week after rising in the previous three to above the half-million mark.

"This is something of a relief, because it suggests that the 504,000 claims number from two weeks ago was a fluke rather than an indication that the trend has suddenly surged higher," said Ian Shepherdson, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics.

Claims for unemployment aid fell last week by 6,000 to a seasonally adjusted 472,000, the Labor Department said. There would be far fewer claims in a healthy economy. When economic output is growing rapidly and employers are hiring, claims generally drop below 400,000.

Retailers, meanwhile, reported surprisingly strong sales in August compared to a year ago. The International Council of Shopping Centers' index of 31 major retailers was up 3.2 percent in August, following a 2.8 percent gain in July.

Oil platform catches fire in Gulf; workers OK

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—An oil platform that burned off the Louisiana coast Thursday was the second such disaster in the Gulf of Mexico in less than five months. This time, the Coast Guard said there was no leak, and no one was killed.

The Coast Guard initially reported that an oil sheen a mile long and 100 feet wide had begun to spread from the site, about 200 miles west of the source of BP's massive spill. But hours later, Coast Guard Cmdr. Cheri Ben-Iesau said crews were unable to find any spill.

The company that owns the platform, Houston-based Mariner Energy, did not know what caused the fire. Workers who were pulled from the water told rescuers that there was a blast on board, but Mariner Energy's Patrick Cassidy said he considered what happened aboard the platform a fire, not an explosion.

"The platform is still intact and it was just a small portion of the platform that appears to be burned," he said.

Mariner officials said there were seven active production wells on the platform, and they were shut down shortly before the fire broke out.

Nation

Earl weakens but still powerful as it passes NC

BUXTON, N.C. (AP)—The last ferry left for the mainland and coastal residents hunkered down at home as Hurricane Earl closed in with 105 mph winds Friday on North Carolina's dangerously exposed Outer Banks, the first and perhaps most destructive stop on the storm's projected journey up the Eastern Seaboard.

The hurricane's squalls began to lash the long ribbon of barrier islands. Gusts above 40 mph made signs shake and the heavy rain fall sideways in Buxton, the southeasternmost tip of the Outer Banks.

Hurricane Earl's winds were slowing, from 140 mph early Thursday to 105 mph, Category 2 strength, later. But forecasters warned that it remained powerful, with hurricane-force winds of 74 mph or more extending 70 miles from its center and tropical storm-force winds of at least 35 mph reaching more than 200 miles out.

"It's interesting to me to just see what Mother Nature can do," said Jay Lopez, 36, of Frisco, as the wind howled through Buxton.

Federal, state and local authorities were waiting for daybreak to begin patrolling the coast to check for damage.

But National Weather Service meterologist Chris Collins said early Friday that Earl had produced little storm surge and only minor flooding in some coastal counties. Predictions of storm surges between 2 and 4 feet may be generous, he said.

The Coast Guard planned an airplane flyover of the Outer Banks and were prepared for search-and-rescue helicopter flights.

ACROSS THE NATION

LA police ID owner of trunk containing baby bodies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Investigators have identified the owner of a trunk in which the mummified remains of two babies were found, bringing them a step closer to solving the intriguing international mystery. The owner of the steamer trunk, abandoned for decades in the basement of an apartment building, was Janet M. Barrie, a Scottish immigrant who was born in 1897 and worked as a nurse in Los Angeles before moving to Vancouver, where she died, officials said Thursday. Confirming her identity will help investigators as they try to solve the puzzle of the abandoned remains found wrapped in sheets and nestled in doctor bags amid scrunched up copies of 1930s newspapers.

FBI: 6 accused in forced labor of 400 Thai workers

HONOLULU (AP)—Six recruiters were accused Thursday of luring 400 laborers from Thailand to the United States and forcing them to work, according to a federal indictment that the FBI called the largest human-trafficking case ever charged in U.S. history. The indictment alleges that the scheme was orchestrated by four employees of labor recruiting company Global Horizons Manpower Inc. and two Thailand-based recruiters. It said the recruiters lured the workers with false promises of lucrative jobs, then confiscated their passports, failed to honor their employment contracts and threatened to deport them. Once the Thai laborers arrived in the United States starting in May 2004, they were put to work and have since been sent to sites in states including Hawaii, Washington, California, Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Utah, according to attorneys and advocates.

Police: Discovery Channel hostages planned escape

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP)—Police had been negotiating with James Jae Lee for several hours and intended to keep him talking for as long as it took to safely resolve the standoff at the Discovery Channel's headquarters. Inside the lobby, Lee's three hostages had no intention of waiting. As the two Discovery employees and a security guard got ready to make a break for it, officers moving in on Lee heard him shout and then a "pop" that they thought might have been gunfire or a homemade bomb detonating. So they stepped out from behind a wall and shot him dead, ending the drama that unfolded Wednesday at the cable network's complex just north of Washington. It turned out that Lee was armed with starter pistols, police said Thursday as they revealed new details about the culmination of Lee's yearslong crusade against the Discovery networks, which he faulted in fanatical Web posts for offering programming that promoted overpopulation.

World

Mexico: Soldiers kill 25 in gunbattle near border

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP)—Soldiers killed 25 suspected cartel members Thursday in a raid and gunbattle in a Mexican state near the U.S. border that has seen a surge in drug gang violence, the military said.

A reconnaissance flight over Ciudad Mier in Tamaulipas state spotted several gunmen in front of a property, according to a statement from Mexico's Defense Department.

When troops on the ground moved in, gunmen opened fire, starting a gunbattle that killed 25 suspected cartel members, according to the military. The statement said two soldiers were injured but none were killed.

Earlier, a military spokesman had said the shootout happened when troops on patrol in neighboring Nuevo Leon state came under fire from a ranch allegedly controlled by the Zetas drug gang.

The spokesman, who was not authorized to be quoted by name, said the troops returned fire at a ranch, known as "The Stump." A defense department statement later said the shootout took place in Tamaulipas.

Authorities rescued three people believed to be kidnap victims in the raid, according to the statement. The military said troops seized 25 rifles, four grenades, 4,200 rounds of ammunition and 23 vehicles.

Violence has surged in northeastern Mexico this year since the Zetas broke ranks with their former employer, the Gulf cartel, making Tamaulipas one of the country's most dangerous battlegrounds.

In June, gunmen ambushed and killed the leading candidate for state governor a week before the elections. And in May a mayoral candidate in Tamaulipas was assassinated.

In August, Mexican marines discovered the bodies of 72 Central and South American migrants believed to have been gunned down by the Zetas after refusing to smuggle drugs, in what may be the deadliest cartel massacre to date. The dead migrants were discovered at a ranch about 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the U.S. border in Tamaulipas.

The Zetas began as a gang of drug assassins but have since evolved into a powerful cartel.

Drug violence has claimed more than 28,000 lives since President Felipe Calderon intensified a crackdown on cartels after taking office in late 2006.

Hamas among intractable issues in Mideast talks

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—To relaunch Middle East peace talks on Thursday, the Israeli and Palestinian leaders and their American mediators quietly agreed to push aside the question of Hamas—the Islamic militant group that controls one of the two Palestinian territories and rejects negotiations.

But Hamas let it be known with its bullets that it would not be left out of the equation—the militants killed four Israelis and wounded two others in a pair of attacks on the eve of the new talks.

The bloodshed was a reminder that Hamas is now on the list of intractable issues that have stymied decades of Mideast negotiations. There can be no peace without Hamas, but there is no solution so far for bringing the Iranian-backed group into the process.

"The attacks were meant to tell (Palestinian President Mahmoud) Abbas he is not the one who decides the fate of the Palestinians," declared Ahmed Yousef, a senior Hamas official in Gaza, adding that the group deserves a place in national decision-making because it won parliamentary elections in 2006.

"Hamas will never agree to be ignored and isolated, and it can reshuffle the cards," he said.

Hamas is firmly in control of the Gaza Strip, one of the two territories that are supposed to be part of a future Palestinian state. It wields virtual veto power over any agreement and has given no indication it would be willing to accept a deal with Israel reached by Abbas, who runs a rival government in the West Bank.

The more moderate Abbas met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Thursday for the first peace talks in two years, hosted by President Barack Obama.

Abbas and Netanyahu are far apart on issues that have eluded a solution for decades, including the borders of a Palestinian state, the fate of millions of Palestinian refugees and the most explosive issue, the competing claims to the holy city of Jerusalem.

WORLD BRIEFS

Indonesian volcano spews new burst of ash

TANAH KARO, Indonesia (AP)—An Indonesian volcano sent a new, powerful burst of hot ash high into the air early Friday, violently shaking homes and trees along the slopes and sending panicked villagers scurrying back to safety. "This was a big one!" said 37-year-old Anto Sembiring, who fled his coffee shop not far from the crater's mouth, joining hundreds of others gathered near Mount Sinabung's base. "It shot up at least 3,000 meters (yards)." The air was thick with the smell of sulfur and visibility was limited to just a few yards (meters).

95 snakes found in burst bag at Malaysia airport

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysian man pleaded guilty to wildlife smuggling after his bag bursting with 95 live boa constrictors broke open on a luggage conveyer belt at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, an official said Friday. Keng Liang "Anson" Wong, 52, who was previously convicted of wildlife trafficking in the United States, was charged Wednesday in a district court with exporting the endangered boas without a permit, said Shamsuddin Osman, an official with Malaysia's wildlife department. The offense that carries a penalty of up to seven years in prison and a fine, Shamsuddin said.

Typhoon kills 5 South Koreans

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The death toll from Typhoon Kompasu, which battered the Korean peninsula with strong winds and heavy rains, rose to five in South Korea, an official said Friday. The typhoon struck Seoul the day before, toppling trees, streetlights and scaffolding in what was called the strongest storm to hit the capital area in 15 years. Powerful gusts knocked over power lines, cutting off electricity to tens of thousands of homes and forcing airports to cancel or delay more than 60 international flights, the National Emergency Management Agency said.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Coastal Resources Management

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION

September 03, 2010

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. YUSUKE SAMI dba S.K. Corp.	02/09/10 STLRm-2010-X-075	SCUBA DIVING	DIVE SITES, SAIPAN	LAGOON & REEF APC	APPROVED(06/30/10)
2. SAIPAN AQUA WORLD INC.	08/06/10 SLRm-2010-X-076	SCUBA DIVING	DIVE SITES, SAIPAN & TINIAN	LAGOON & REEF APC	APPROVED(08/13/10)*
3. SAIPAN AQUA WORLD INC.	08/06/10 SLRm-2010-X-077	MANAGAHA TRANSFER SNORKELING TOURS	MANAGAHA IS./ SAIPAN	LAGOON & REEF APC	UNDER REVIEW*
4. SIN NO NAM	08/05/10 SSm-2010-X-078	LANDCLEARING	CAPITOL HILL	SHORELINE APC	UNDER REVIEW*
5. SAIPAN TROLLING CO. INC.	01/05/10 SLRm-2010-X-79	BANANA BOAT OPERATION	SAIPAN	LAGOON & REEF APC	APPROVED(08/26/10)*
6. PELLEY BOAT CHARTER	08/16/10 SLRm-2010-X-080	DRYDOCK	DELTA DOCK	LAGOON & REEF APC	APPROVED(08/26/10)*
7. SAIPAN BLUE COCONUT	08/24/10 SSm-2010-X-081	BEACH CONCESSION	BEACH NORTH OF HAFA DAI BEACH HOTEL	SHORELINE APC	UNDER REVIEW*
8. SAIPAN BLUE COCONUT	08/24/10 SLRm-2010-X-082	SNORKELING AND MANAGAHA TRANSFER	MANAGAHA IS./ SAIPAN	LAGOON & REEF APC	UNDER REVIEW*
9. SAIPAN BLUE COCONUT	08/24/10 SLRm-2010-X-083	WAKE BOARDING	SAIPAN LAGOON	LAGOON & REEF APC	UNDER REVIEW*
10. AMERICAN RED CROSS	09/01/10 SSm-2010-X-084	TEMPORARY BARRICADE	BEACH SIDE FIESTA RESORT	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(09/01/10)*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

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- ☑ **Gold Nugget Rings** ..... up to $800
- ☑ **Gold Pocket Watches** ..... up to $750
- ☑ **Gold Link Bracelets** ..... up to $2,500
- ☑ **Gold Broken Chains** ..... up to $1,000
- ☑ **Gold Service Awards** ..... up to $500
- ☑ **Gold Broken Bracelets** .. up to $1,500
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Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, September 4, 2010

Livelihood VCDs available for viewing starting Sept. 13

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Beginning Sept. 13, the Philippine Consulate General office will offer for viewing VCDs titled *Gabay sa Negosyo* for all Filipino workers on Saipan.

The VCDs are from the Technology Resource Center of the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines.

The Consulate organized the *Gabay sa Negosyo* VCDs into livelihood modules to equip Filipinos on Saipan with information on various livelihood and small business opportunities in the Philippines.

The livelihood modules will provide information on alternative sources of livelihood and will supplement reintegration programs for overseas Filipino workers.

For this month, the livelihood modules to be offered are as follows:

- Baking and Candy Making — Sept. 13 – 17
- Meat and Fish Processing — Sept. 20 – 24
- Processed Food — Sept. 27 – Oct. 1

The video presentations will be held during office hours from 9am to 4pm at Room 502 of the Marianas Business Plaza.

Those who want to watch the livelihood modules would be required to watch two basic VCDs, *Pangangasiwa ng Negosyo* and Basic Financial Management.

Participants must bring their own writing materials for note taking. Only 12 seats are available for each viewing. Those who do not have reserved seats will only be allowed in the room if there are vacant slots.

For reservation, call the Consulate at 234-1848, 234-1850 or 234-1851 and look for Hazel Mendoza.

'A Dollar Concert for a Cause' raises over $1k

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The *bayanihan* spirit among Filipinos on Saipan lives, with hundreds trooping to the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on Aug. 28 to show support for "A Dollar Concert for a Cause," raising a total of $1,068.

"A Dollar Concert for a Cause," which lasted from 5:30pm to 9:30pm, intended to raise funds to cover the cost of operation of Violy Lapuz, a Filipino singer who was found to have a tumor on her right breast.

Musician Walden Beri, Lapuz's husband, earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that his wife got operated on last Aug. 23 at the Philippine General Hospital in Manila.

Beri, who has been on the island for 24 years, sought the assistance of the Pilipino Contract Workers Association and the United Workers Movement NMI to raise funds to cover the medical bills of his wife.

The fundraising concert featured performances from Beri and son Dhen, the Past and Present Syndicate Band, Patz and Badjhoe, Mary Anne Alovera, Mario and Loreta, Shonique Dancers, and Jerry Alcantara.

Musician Walden Beri, left, in dark shirt, talks to Consul General Medardo Macaraig, United Workers Movement NMI president Rabby Syed, Pilipino Contract Workers Association president Ronnie Doca, Philippine Overseas Labor Office representatives and guests on Aug. 31 at the Consulate office. Doca and Syed handed to Beri $1,068 in cash from "A Dollar Concert for a Cause" held Aug. 28 to cover the operation of singer Violy Lapuz. CLARISSA V. DAVID

A raffle draw, which gave away different prizes, was also held during the concert. The prizes were donations from former Northern Marianas president Carmen Fernandez and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

Pilcowa president Ronnie Doca and United Workers Movement NMI president Rabby Syed handed the $1,068 in cash to Beri last Aug. 31 at the Philippine Consulate General office in Susupe.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig, labor representative Carmelina Velasquez, and welfare officer Rey Tayag served as witnesses.

Doca told *Saipan Tribune* that he was pleased with the support that they received from the community with the fundraising concert that was also attended by former representatives Tina Sablan and Ed Salas.

"Working together can really make a difference," said Syed, who urged the community to continue praying for Lapuz and her family. "Prayer is very powerful. It can heal their pain," he added.

Beri expressed appreciation to all those who have extended their support for his wife.

"I sincerely thank Mayor Melchor Mendiola and his wife, Adelia San Nicolas, Frank and Ofelia Atalig, Ali Badiles of the Filipino Association in Rota, Pilcowa, United Workers Movement, Foremost, the Consulate, the performers, and all those who have supported us," he said.

According to Beri, his wife is now recuperating out of the hospital but will still need chemotherapy treatment.

Beri said any assistance for Lapuz's continued treatment will be greatly appreciated. To help, contact 286-6185.

POLO opens registration for five courses

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Registration has officially opened for five training courses offered by Philippine Consulate General Office through the Philippine Overseas Labor Office for the fourth quarter of 2010.

These courses are Fastfood Business, Tailoring, Building and Fixing, Basic Fruit Carving, and Financial Literacy.

All courses will be held every Saturday from Oct. 2 to Dec. 4.

The Fastfood Business course will have five different batches, with a maximum number of 40 students per batch. Each batch will be conducted from 8am to 5pm and will run from Oct. 2 to 30. Instructor will be Hermie B. Coronejo.

Domingo S. del Rosario will conduct the Tailoring course from Oct. 2 to 30, from 9am to noon. Only 35 students will be accommodated for the course.

The Building and Fixing Course, which has room for 35 students, will run from Oct. 2 to Nov. 20 at 5:30pm to 8:30pm. Applicants for this course must undergo a pre-qualifying exam at 5pm on Sept. 11 at the Filipino Workers Resource Center. Course instructor is Mar V. Masilungan.

Eduardo M. Elenzano will be teaching the Basic Fruit Carving Course to only 50 students. Classes will be held from Nov. 6 to 20 at 1pm to 5pm.

The Financial Literacy course will be administered by labor representative Carmelina F. Velasquez, Ignacio D. Banadera, Melvin J. Malvar, and Remily D. Oca to a maximum of 50 students. Classes will run from Nov. 6 to Dec. 4 at 9am to noon.

Slots for all courses are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants need to present either their umbrella or work entry permit and their passport.

For information, visit POLO or call 235-6992 or 235-3411.

Free health screening for Filipinos tomorrow

The Philippine Consulate General announced Wednesday its "Free Health Screening for OFWs" for the third quarter this Sunday, Sept. 5, 2010, at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza Building. Registration is from 6am to 8am and the actual conduct of the activity will be from 8am to noon.

This free health screening program by the Philippine Consulate General, Philippine Overseas Labor Office, and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration is done in cooperation with the Filipino Volunteer Medical Team, CNMI Pharmacist Association and Hardt Eye Clinic.

The medical services include blood pressure, blood sugar, and vision checkups. OFWs who want to avail of the blood sugar level checkup must avoid taking solid and liquid food from midnight to the time of the actual testing.

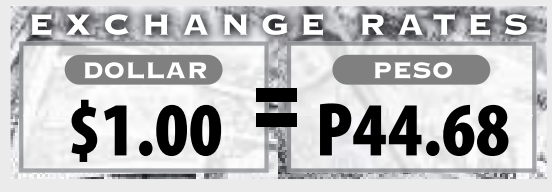
In 2009, a total of 1,601 OFWs benefited from the free health screening program, of whom 1,228 OFWs availed of the blood pressure and blood sugar checkups, while 373 OFWs availed of the vision checkup. Also, during the first and second quarter of 2010, there were around 478 and 381 OFWs who availed of the medical services, respectively. ***(PR)***

Peso expected to further strengthen in Q4

By MICHELLE REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Private enterprises expect the peso to appreciate further in the fourth quarter amid projections of sustained increase in dollar inflow to the Philippines.

This was according to a study by the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*, which solicited the views of over 1,200 firms nationwide.



The peso outlook index for the fourth quarter, measured as the difference between firms that expect the local currency to appreciate and those that expect it to depreciate, stood at +24.7 percent.

This means more firms see the peso strengthening in the last three months of the year versus the third quarter.

The peso currently hovers at 45:$1, stronger than last year's average of 47 against the dollar.

"The anticipated appreciation of the peso [is attributed to the] sustained foreign exchange inflow arising from the improved performance of exports, steady OF [overseas Filipino] remittances and foreign direct and portfolio investments," the BSP said in the paper.

A stronger peso benefits firms that depend on imported raw materials for their production or purchases imported goods for sale to the domestic market.

A strong peso, however, adversely affects income of exporters as it makes Philippine-made goods more expensive in dollar terms.

Monetary officials said the appreciation of the local currency was largely due to rising remittances from Filipinos based offshore and modest rise in foreign investments.

In June, monthly remittances hit a record high of $1.62 billion, bringing the total for the first half to $9.06 billion, up 6.9 percent from only $8.48 billion in the same period last year.

Hong Kong: Bodies of Manila bus victims mixed up

By MIN LEE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HONG KONG (AP) — Philippine authorities mistakenly sent the bodies of three of the victims in the Manila bus hijacking to the wrong families, Hong Kong said Thursday, the latest in a series of missteps in the handling of the crisis.

The bodies of eight tourists killed in the attack were shipped back last Wednesday to Hong Kong, where tearful relatives laid wreaths on the coffins of their loved ones in an airport ceremony — but three families were paying their respects to the wrong bodies.

The three families discovered the mistake when they opened the coffins at the morgue later that night, Hong Kong's Security Bureau said in a statement. The families had identified the bodies in Manila, so it's possible that funeral parlor workers in the Philippines mislabeled them, the statement said.

The Security Bureau didn't identify which victims were mixed up.

Philippine Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said she would investigate, adding, "If there was a mix-up of those names, we apologize."

Hong Kongers have been outraged that Philippine police bungled negotiations last week with the hostage-taker, a former police officer seeking reinstatement, as well as the rescue operation. Thousands of Chinese tourists have canceled their flight and hotel bookings to the country.

Hong Kong's 60-member Legislative Council on Thursday overwhelmingly passed a resolution that declares that the rescue operation suffered from "serious failures."

Philippine Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said that investigators will begin questioning senior officials on Friday, starting with the deputy interior secretary and top police commanders.

All 3 Chinese winners accepted RM awards from Aquino

AP

President Benigno Aquino III, left, celebrates Huo Daishan from China during the Ramon Magsaysay Awards night Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2010 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in suburban Pasay City, south of Manila.

By NORMAN BORDADORA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Fears that the Aug. 23 hostage crisis would tarnish the annual Ramon Magsaysay Award ceremony dissipated when all three Chinese winners accepted their prizes from President Benigno Aquino III on Tuesday night.

"What is important is that they recognize the award," Aquino told reporters after the ceremonies.

Huo Daishan, who was cited for his "selfless dedication to saving China's Huai River from the ravages of pollution," warmly received his medal from Aquino and shook his hand.

The two other Chinese winners Pan Yue and Fu Qiping, who were recognized for their commitment to the environment in both the national and community level, failed to attend the event, but sent a representative instead to claim the awards on their behalf from Aquino.

The other awardees were Tadatoshi Akiba of Japan "for his vision and determination as one of the foremost proponents of nuclear disarmament," Christopher Bernido and Ma. Victoria Carpio-Bernido of the Philippines "for their relentless pursuit of scientific knowledge in the name of service to the nation, and A.H.M. Noman Khan of Bangladesh "for his compassion and his dedication to the ideal of human dignity."

Earlier reports indicated that Pan and Fu would boycott the awards ceremonies for the Asian version of the Nobel Prize following the bungled police rescue effort on a hijacked bus that killed eight Hong Kong tourists and their abductor, a disgruntled police officer.

On Sunday, more than 80,000 residents marched in Hong Kong to demand justice for the victims.

Paradox

The President himself was slammed for smiling during his press conference after the hostage crisis and while he was inspecting the crime scene. He has since apologized.

"Tonight, we ponder this paradox as we celebrate the memory of President Magsaysay and the ideals that he stood for: simplicity and humility; an inviolate respect for human dignity; and a commitment to integrity, justice, and idealism in governance," Aquino said in his speech.

"Our awardees have spent their lives in the service of these same ideals," he said in paying tribute to Magsaysay, who died in a plane crash. The awards were named after him to honor his memory.

"Thank you so much for being symbols of the highest ideals of humankind, and for shining your light on a world that, surely, is in constant need of examples," Aquino said.

"Thank you for accepting this award: for recognizing the honor that the Filipino people, through the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, has bestowed upon persons of wisdom, passion, courage, and integrity."

Isolated incident

In a phone interview with the Inquirer, Ethan Sun Yi, spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in Manila, said his government treated the Aug. 23 hijacking as an "isolated incident."

He said Beijing hoped that the "unfortunate" incident would not have a negative impact on relations with Manila.

On Tuesday, Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Liu Jianchao said Beijing and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region were satisfied with the progress of the investigation by Philippine authorities on the bloodbath.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement "the strong and long-standing ties of friendship and cooperation between the governments and peoples of the Philippines and China and Hong Kong shall overcome this sad episode."

RP may miss its goal of reducing poverty by half

By MICHELLE REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The country is no longer in a position to attain the Millennium Development Goal of reducing poverty by 2015, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman said.

The Millennium Development Goals serve as a contract to which member-countries of the United Nations are committed. Under one MDG category, UN members have until 2015 to reduce poverty incidence by half from levels seen in 1990.

In the case of the Philippines, poverty incidence should be cut to only 12.5 percent five years from now.

"The 12.5-percent poverty rate that we ought to achieve is no longer realistic given the latest level of poverty," Juliano-Soliman said in a briefing held on Thursday at the Asian Development Bank of the Philippines.

According to the National Statistical Coordination Board, poverty incidence in the country stood at 33 percent as of 2006.

The 2009 poverty incidence figure will be released next month. Based on some analysts' projections, the poverty rate may not have improved from the 2006 level.

The NSCB said the country's poverty incidence likely stood at about a third of the population.

Soliman said that according to the latest Social Weather Stations survey on self-rated poverty, 45 percent of the country's population thought of themselves as poor last year. Self-rated poverty is usually higher than the actual poverty incidence reported by the government. Still, it provides a picture of what the actual figure may be.

Heads of concerned government agencies—social welfare, labor, education, and budget departments—will soon meet to discuss the new poverty reduction goal of the Aquino administration.

"We will conduct a review [of the country's poverty reduction potential] and set a new target," Soliman said.

Although the government boasts of economic strength, economists believe that the country's growth may mean little for the poor since poverty incidence remains high.

Aquino to go to US as scheduled; resets trips to Vietnam, Indonesia

MANILA, Philippines—President Benigno Aquino has announced he is postponing his trips to Indonesia and Vietnam originally scheduled within September.

But the President said on Tuesday he was keeping his schedule to go to the United States within September, his first trip abroad as the country's leader.

Aquino told reporters that Indonesia could only accommodate him "sometime in October" and that the Palace has been "working on that."

In the case of Vietnam, he said he would be going there anyway to attend the leaders' summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in October.

"In keeping with our promise to be more judicious on the way we spend the people's money, especially with the fact we had very little left, I felt it was more prudent to have one trip than two," Aquino said.

Aquino said he might meet U.S. President Barack Obama at the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York late this month. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

OFWs in US bases in Iraq may stay

MANILA, Philippines—Overseas Filipino workers deployed in US military facilities in Iraq may continue working there until their contracts expire, the Department of Foreign Affairs said on its website.

According to an interagency task force, OFWs employed by the US government or their subcontractors inside US military bases and facilities will be allowed to continue working in Iraq if their safety is assured and if repatriation is guaranteed at the end of their contract.

There are now only 2,000 OFWs in US military bases and facilities in Iraq.

However, the total ban against the deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq remains.

The government had imposed a ban on the deployment of OFWs in Iraq in late 2003 because of the increasing number of suicide bombings.

"This high-level decision has been sent to US authorities through the Philippine Embassies in Washington D.C. and Baghdad as the basis for the Filipino nationals working inside the US bases to be considered compliant with previous US directive of repatriating non-compliant foreign workers," the DFA statement said. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

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Scrap hike in e-passport fee, urges OFW group

By JERRY E. ESPLANADA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—An umbrella organization of overseas Filipino workers (OFW) groups based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia has asked President Benigno Aquino III and Vice President Jejomar Binay to "right a wrong" committed by the Arroyo administration by scrapping the increase in the electronic or e-passport processing fee.

The militant Migrante-Middle East (Migrante-ME) said the Department of Foreign Affairs imposed the increase early in 2010.

John Leonard Monterona, Migramte-ME regional coordinator, told the Philippine Daily Inquirer, his organization has " repeatedly asked the DFA to look into the problem to no avail."

The Migrante-ME and its affiliate groups in the Middle East and other parts of the world hosting OFWs have so far raised over 25,000 signatures in what Monterona called an "attempt to convince the Aquino administration to do something about our complaint regarding the passport processing fee increase."

From only P550, the DFA now charges P950, or $21 for the issuance of a Philippine passport.

However, the same passport costs $60 (about P2,712) when issued at Philippine embassies and consulates abroad.

It is "higher because of transport and logistics costs plus the higher rates for personnel services and utilities" in the foreign diplomatic missions, according to DFA Assistant Secretary J. Eduardo Malaya, also agency spokesman.

Malaya advised OFWs to avail of the lower passport fee by getting the travel document here. He said DFA statistics showed that more than 70 percent of applicants got their passports in Manila and other key cities where DFA consular offices operated.

In a statement, the DFA described the Philippine passport processing fee as "one of the lowest in Asia, if not the world."

The fee is "way below those of other Asian countries, including Thailand ($33), Brunei ($37), Singapore ($52), Malaysia ($97), Cambodia ($120), and Japan (P180)."

The Philippine passport also costs much less than its counterparts in the US ($110) and Canada ($86), according to Malaya.

Monterona, however, asserted "the Philippines is a Third World country so we expect the fee to be a lot lower here."

In an email, he expressed hope President Aquino "would find time to attend to our concerns. If not, we don't mind dealing with Vice President Binay, who we understand will be named shortly by the President as head of the government task force on OFWs."

Last month, Binay ordered the suspension of the collection of OFWs' mandatory P600-membership contribution to the housing Pag-Ibig Fund.

Garry Martinez, Migrante International, noted "this development may have been an initial triumph for OFWs, but we are still not assured if the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration would implement (Binay's) directive."

"To date, POEA Memorandum Circular 06-2010 which compels OFWs to pay a mandatory P100 contribution to the Pag-Ibig Fund, or P600 for six months, is still in effect," Martinez noted.

He also pointed out that the government "continues collecting other unnecessary fees from OFWs like membership fees to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration ($25) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (P900), on top of the usual job placement fees."

Martinez also referred to the recently amended Republic Act 10022, or the Migrant Workers Act, which "stipulates a mandatory health insurance that may also be imposed on OFWs."

"Kung talagang itinuturing kami ng gobyerno na mga bagong bayani, tigilan na ang pangongotong sa mga OFWs... Sobra na, tama na (If they really think that we're the new heroes, they should stop charging OFWs…Stop it, it's too much)," Martinez added.

In a related development, Monterona asked the DFA to stop the practice of many Arab employers of confiscating the passport of OFWs upon their arrival in their host countries.

"The Saudi and Kuwaiti governments, among others, have not issued any ruling requiring the confiscation of migrant workers' passports supposedly for safekeeping during the validity of their work contracts," he noted.

Monterona lamented they "have repeatedly brought up this issue with officials of our embassies and consulates here in the Middle East...Sadly, to no avail."

"For them, it seems to be a non-issue, so they are looking the other way," he added.

MARIJUANA PLANTATION AP

In this photo taken Wednesday Sept. 1, 2010, soldiers carry uprooted marijuana plants for destruction following a raid of a clandestine plantation at La Union province in northern Philippines. Authorities allegedly uprooted and burned some 499, 000 fully grown marijuana plants and destroyed 88,000 of its seedlings in the three-day operation with an estimated market value of the haul to be 102.3 million pesos (US$2.26 million).

Pacquiao takes politically correct approach

By BILL DWYRE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEW YORK—The congressman stepped to the microphone Wednesday, knowing his task. There were no babies to kiss, just media to embrace.

"Here we go again," said the Honorable Manny Pacquiao, recently elected member of the southern Sarangani District of the Philippines.

This implied nothing had changed, that his boxing career was the main thing and that he would continue to climb to heights reached by few before him. He will fight Antonio Margarito on Nov. 13 in Cowboys Stadium.

Taken at face value, that is a pretty big deal.

Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones has said he will open up 70,000 seats, and there actually may be enough Texans unsophisticated enough about boxing to fill those. The last time Pacquiao fought there, 50,924 showed up to gawk through binoculars as Pacquiao battered Joshua Clottey, who mostly stood with his hands covering his head and took whatever Pacquiao dished out.

Margarito actually will fight back. In his heyday, he was a bruising brawler. But then they found plaster material in his glove wraps before his fight against Shane Mosley at Staples Center in Los Angeles on Jan. 24, 2009. Since then, Margarito has spent more time testifying than boxing. Mosley beat him up that night, and public opinion has continued to do the same since.

Many boxing writers feel that the upset of the year in the sport has already taken place, and not in the ring. Texas gave Margarito a license to fight again, after California and Nevada said no. That is stunning to many.

Still, with Floyd Mayweather Jr., the only real opponent left for Pacquiao, tilting with his own personal windmills and unwilling to compromise to make that big fight, Top Rank Promotions had to make a move. It had the Nov. 13 date for Pacquiao and the only opponent left who came close to creating a buzz was Margarito.

Margarito is bigger, taller and possibly a shot fighter. He is 32 with 44 fights and looks to be the more battle-weary. Pacquiao is 31 with 56 fights and still looks fresh and ready.

Nobody will know until fight night, even though some bookmakers have made Pacquiao a 5-1 choice, a big spread for this level fight.

Nor does anybody know exactly how the changes in Pacquiao's life will manifest themselves in the boxing ring, if at all. Certainly, as the fighters and their entourages made the second of three promotional stops Wednesday, it was not quite the same vibe.

First, the proceedings were clouded by the predicament of Top Rank's founder and chief executive, Bob Arum. The 78-year-old boxing legend learned Tuesday that his oldest son, John, 49, a lawyer, outdoorsman and skilled mountain climber, was lost in Washington's Cascade Mountains. With Arum in Washington, as rangers searched, the normal hype and bombast of a boxing news conference correctly toned down.

Also, topics that are usually suited for left hooks and uppercuts are now a bit superficial, even though the usual horde of pseudo boxing media, desperately seeking autographs and cell phone pictures instead of answers to newsworthy questions, was out in full drool.

Pacquiao's constituency comprises much more than boxing fans. He is loved for his success in the ring, but needed more for his decisions in legislative chambers. He will not linger after the three-city promotional tour. Philippine Congress is in session Monday.

Finally lured to a quiet spot away from the groupies with media badges, Pacquiao readily admitted that his life has changed dramatically.

"I have to watch my moves every day," he said. "People watch everything I do. I need to be careful."

He said he likes being a public servant, and that it carries over to his boxing to the point where winning now is more important.

"I want to win to show people I still can," he said. Pacquiao also said that, in a country still dangerously violent at times, his violence in the ring can be a vehicle of peace.

"When I fight, everybody is united," he said. "There is zero crime. There are no cars on the streets."

He was shown an article from the Sunday New York Times. It reported the anger and unrest in the aftermath of the Aug. 23 hostage crisis in Manila, in which eight tourists from Hong Kong were killed, apparently the result of inept handling by Philippine police.

Pacquiao responded like a politician.

"We know who was responsible," he said. "Our new government was very surprised this happened. It is being investigated and I am confident we can fix that incident."

OFW deployment to HK continues—recruiters

By LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—In what could be a bright spot in the bleak scenario created by the hostage-taking incident in Quirino Grandstand, recruitment agencies on Monday assured that deployment of Filipino domestic helpers in Hong Kong will continue.

Filipino workers are among the most efficient and are adept in speaking English, making them the first choice by Hong Kong employers, according to Alfredo Palmiery, president of the Society of Hong Kong Accredited recruiters of the Philippines.

Marching on Sunday, some 80,000 Hong Kong residents, including legislators, denounced the Philippines government for botching the rescue operation, resulting in the death of eight people, mostly Hong Kong tourists.

Despite this, there has been no cancellation of job orders for Filipino domestic helpers for the former British colony, Palmiery said.

He added that there has been no move to revoke employment contracts as well based on the reports of their counterpart organizations which specializes in hiring domestic helpers, the Hong Kong Federation of Accredited Agencies Ltd. and the General Chamber of Manpower Agencies Ltd.

Palmiery also said he is communicating with his counterpart in Hong Kong for assistance to workers who may be displaced due to the hostage-taking incident.

"Hong Kong employers have proven for decades that Filipino domestic helpers are reliable, honest and are very proficient in the English. This is why employers would not easily let go of workers, they need them," Palmiery said in a phone interview.

Hong Kong residents depend heavily on the services of Filipino domestic helpers because their presence in the household allows both husband and wife to work to meet the region's high standard of living.

"It is the Filipino domestic helpers who take care of their children and their homes while they are at work," Palmiery added.

Filipina domestic helpers, who number about 150,000 in Hong Kong, comprise one-third of domestic helpers in that city and outnumber from other countries, including Indonesia and Vietnam.

Hong Kong was the top destination for household service workers in 2009 with 25,000 new hires, according to statistics from the Philippine Employment Overseas Administration.

The only time deployment to Hong Kong decreased was during the 2007 worldwide financial crisis when many expatriates had to leave Hong Kong because of the shutting down or downsizing of financial institutions, but Filipina maids continue to flock to the region.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

RUSHES

Chatty starlet torn between two hunks

Chatty Starlet is torn between two hunks—Older Star and Younger Stud.

Even though YS and CS have called it quits, they still met on the sly, a source insists. Right under the nose of OS?

It's because CS can't get enough of YS, says another mole.

Now, CS is in a quandary. Her "monthly visitor" is late and CS is unsure whether her accomplice in this crime of passion is YS or OS.

If ever … how could CS explain to OS that he's not the dad? Then again, all these speculations could be churned out by CS' camp.

CS and her handlers have become expert tattle-tale manipulators—yet another trick they've had to master to keep her in the public eye in spite of obvious professional shortcomings.

New girl in hunk's life

Everyone thought Beleaguered Hunk had mended his ways.

Rumor has it, however, that BH is now involved with Daring Starlet, though he is supposed to be the constant companion of Controversial Celebrity.

When CC heard the gossip, she could only mutter: "Could it be true?" Concerned friends and observers could only shake their heads in utter disbelief.

Online star

Movie stars, TV stars … now an online star has become a beauty product endorser. "Cosplay Princess of the Philippines" Alodia Gosiengfiao (niece of the late filmmaker Joey Gosiengfiao) is the image model, if you will, of Kojie-san lightening soap.

"She is fun, adventurous, not afraid to be different," said marketing director Danwin Cruz.

Alodia is a "cosplay" (costume play) superstar. Her Facebook has over 30,000 members. In her Deviantart site, where she started her cosplaying career, she has posted 4 million page views and 27,000 members.

Sister Ashley is a cosplay superstar as well. "We have followers in Singapore, Spain, Russia, Italy, Poland, even Latvia," she says.

The sisters are Chile-bound in October to judge a cosplay competition.

Lea Michele's secrets

"Glee" star Lea Michele shares three major health tips with readers of Women's Health Philippines:

1 Destress with yoga. Her health counselor Devon Butler says, "We do this a lot during red-carpet season. Lea has so much attention on her, and yoga is so calming.

2 Eat healthy. Lea is a vegan; she gave up meat and dairy after reading the best-selling diet book, "Skinny Bitch." Lea says, "I come from an Italian family [so] you can imagine … [they] couldn't understand. But they respected my decision."

3 Vary your routine. Butler says, "Lea is more interested in being healthy than striving to be a specific dress size."

Smart!

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Aiza Seguerra finds true calling after bonding with rockers

By POCHOLO CONCEPCION
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Aiza Seguerra has a confession to make: After spending roughly two decades as a performing artist, it was only recently that she realized music was her true calling.

"Akala ko kasi nag-e-enjoy lang ako nung una...pero a few years ago ko lang naisip, oh my God, gusto ko pala talaga ito," Seguerra told the *Inquirer* during an interview for her concert dubbed "I Am Changing" (with guests The CompanY and Zamboanga pop band Frio) on Sept. 24 at Metro Bar on West Ave. QC.

Two phases have defined the career of the former child star-turned-singer-songwriter, who turns 27 on Sept. 17.

The first started when, at age 3, she joined the Little Miss Philippines contest on the noontime TV show "Eat Bulaga." She didn't win it, but she became a cast member of the show and stayed for 10 years. Her precocious-child appeal landed her roles in other TV shows and several comedy movies.

She left "Eat Bulaga" to concentrate on her high school studies. Out of the limelight, she said, her popularity waned. Still, she had to work, to help her family: "At the time, my father was a government employee with a low salary."

Work meant singing in town fiestas. Later, dropping out of a music course in college at the University of Sto. Tomas, she joined a "showband" that played in a Cubao joint called Joker, and an acoustic trio that lasted for two gigs.

"Walang nanonood sa amin," she recounted. "Bukod sa nanay ko, siguro mga two to three tables lang."

Things changed when record producer Margot Gallardo showed up at Joker and offered her a song called "Pagdating ng Panahon."

With nonchalance, she agreed to record the folk ballad, along with other tracks for a whole album. Released in 2001, the album sold more than 200,000 copies.

It was her second taste of fame.

But it would take a few more years before she could say she truly wanted to be a musician. That happened after she met members of a band she idolized, Color It Red, at a party.

"Impressed ako kay Mike (Villegas, former Color It Red guitarist). May character siya as a guitar player," Seguerra said.

She admitted that she had wanted to play the guitar since age 9; the instrument has since been part of her act.

She sought out Villegas, inviting him to join her for a one-month stint at Hard Rock Cafe Makati. "Just to try if we had chemistry while playing," she said. "E, meron. Dun na nagsimula."

Their team-up has led to creative collaborations. They wrote together—she as lyricist, Villegas as composer—for a track in her 2007 album "Para Lang Sa 'Yo," and the "Kimmy Dora" theme. Villegas has also sat as producer of her other albums.

It was likewise through Villegas that she got to hang out with the likes of Lolita Carbon, Cynthia Alexander, Ria Osorio, Cooky Chua and Bayang Barrios (Villegas' wife).

Though she is a mainstream artist, she said, spending time with these musicians gave her a sense of belonging: "Sometimes we'd play at Conspiracy for three hours straight. Na-hook na ko."

POCHOLO CONCEPCION

THE former TV child star recounts how she performed in town fiestas and sang to "two, three tables" in a Cubao joint.

Confidence gained

Being "hooked" on these jams resulted in another positive development: Seguerra gained confidence as co-writer and producer for one track, "'Di Lang Ikaw," in pop singer Juris' debut solo album, and producer of ABS-CBN's rainy season ("Sukob Na") station ID.

Seguerra revealed that Villegas encouraged her to do these things.

For her Metro Bar concert, she's playing with Villegas on guitar, his brother Angelo (bass); Jonathan Urbano (violin); Budeths Casinto (percussion); and Osorio (keyboards).

Beauty queens defend Venus

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Beauty queens Melanie Marquez and Ma. Isabel Lopez both agree that instead of making fun of Venus Raj's answer at the Miss Universe pageant in a major, major way, we should just all be proud of her and celebrate her victory.

"Na-trauma na nga siya when she got dethroned for a while," says Isabel. "Let's go easy on her. Tama na ang crab mentality."

Melanie echoes the same sentiment. "Dapat siguro may interpreter na rin tayo sa pageant like the others para mas relaxed sumagot ang contestant natin. Yung iba nga na candidates from other countries kahit marunong mag-Ingles, kumukuha pa ng interpreter para mas may time sila magisip ng answer at pinapaganda pa ng interpreter ang sagot."

'Show biz' answers

One of the highlights of every episode of "Paparazzi" is Ruffa G and DJ Mo's jousting. Mo gets a kick out of snatching Ruffa's phone away and he reads the sweet messages of Ruffa's admirers.

Take this: "Cesar Flores just texted Ruffa," Mo said, and then continued to read her message. "I'm thinking about you, Baby." This made Ruffa blush.

"Baby is just a general term of endearment that foreigners use, like honey and sweetie," she explained.

Meanwhile, no matter how much we try to nail Mo about the real score between him and Rhian Ramos, he remains evasive and blurts out the "show biz" answer that they are just friends. But why were they spotted in their house clothes at the grocery together?

AP

In this publicity image released by Miss Universe Organization, Miss Philippines 2010 Venus Raj poses in her swimsuit at Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nev. on Friday, Aug. 20, 2010.

Are they playing house already?

Since Mo is incessantly denying his romance with Rhian, Ruffa posed a challenge: "I will give a P10,000 prize to anyone who can send in a revealing picture of Mo and Rhian."

Celebrity survivors

It's going to be a bumpy, hair-raising viewing experience in "Survivor Philippines Celebrity Showdown" weeknights on GMA 7's Telebabad and on GMA Pinoy TV (Asia-Pacific and the Middle East).

Richard Gutierrez makes his debut as host of the toughest, most action-packed and most intriguing reality show which features 18 celebrity castaways and their quest to bring home the P3 million prize and bragging rights of being Survivor Philippines' 1st celebrity sole survivor.

Set at the heart of the Andaman Sea in Thailand, it features castaways Akihiro Sato, Ahron Villena, Aira Bermudez, Aubrey Miles, Parokya ni Edgar bassist Buhawi Meneses, Elma Muros, Ervic Vijandre, Doc Ferdz Recio, Ian Batherson, Jon Hall, Karen delos Reyes, Michelle Madrigal, Mico Aytona, Moi Bien, Myka Flores, Princess Snell, Solenn Heusaff and Pretty Trizsa.

Libelous statements

Cristy Fermin is filing charges against Chokoleit for his alleged libelous statements about her on Twitter.

"Wala man akong Twitter, nakakarating sa akin ang mga salita niya laban sa akin at pagmumura," explained Tita Cristy. "Bago pa niya ma-delete ang mga tweets nya, napa-print out na ng lawyer ko.

"Galit na galit siya dahil sinabi daw namin sa 'Juicy' na pinakapangit na artista si Pokwang. Hindi namin opinyon yun kundi hinango lang namin sa Internet at nag-komento kami ukol sa survey. Sana wag gawing comedy bar ni Chokoleit ang buong mundo. Hindi na siya nakakatawa."

Not friends

Janice de Belen is not expecting to be invited to the wedding of her ex John Estrada and Priscilla Meirelles. "I don't want to be a side show," she said. "It would be awkward for me to be there."

Isn't she wary that her kids will become closer to their stepmom? "I'm very secure with my relationship with my kids," she explained. "Nobody and nothing can change that."

How is her relationship with John now? "We talk when we have to regarding our kids. But I wouldn't say we're friends. Kasi kung magkasundo kami eh di dapat di kami nagkahiwalay."

Past meets present

Kean Cipriano insists that his ex Danita Paner and his special friend Alex Gonzaga are getting along well on the set of "PO5."

"No reason para sila ma-ilang sa isa't isa," he clarified. "Danita and I are closer now than when we were still on. Super friends kami. As for Alex, masaya ako na meron akong isang katulad niya sa buhay ko. Work doesn't seem like work pag siya ka-trabaho ko."

New love?

Speaking of Danita, is she and JC de Vera getting closer than close? They were spotted having dinner at Mom & Tina's. They happen to have the same manager, Tita Annabelle Rama, so would any romantic involvement seem "incestuous?"

Romantic comedy

Catch GMA 7's newest romantic comedy, "Lovebug Presents Say I Do" every Sunday after "Party Pilipinas." The four-part episode is top-billed by Mark Anthony Fernandez as Alvin and Lovi Poe as Faye, with Joey Marquez as Ulyses and Carmi Martin as Chona.

Despite the separation of his parents, Alvin still keeps in touch with his father and mother, and invites them to his wedding with Faye. But the plan to reunite his estranged folks causes big chaos on his big day.

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Great expectations

What happened on May 10, 2010 was supposed to change all this. The Filipino people trooped to the polls in strong numbers and voted for Benigno Aquino III and seemingly put the excesses of the Arroyo administration behind them.

There was an almost palpable halo surrounding Mr. Aquino and his people in the months immediately following the elections. Everything seemed to shine bright, to be brand spanking new and something completely different. Mr. Aquino took what appeared to be a completely different approach to governance, taking chances by cleaning house and trying to undo the last, twisted actions of the previous regime.

And the Filipino people looked on, smiling, expectant. You could sense it: They wanted something different. So they beamed upon the evolving Cabinet, kept an open mind about the Hacienda Luisita confusion, even warmed to the idea of somehow pulling the reins on the last round of pork barrel allocations. Public opinion remained strongly supportive of the new President and all his men.

Even the weather seemed to be playing along. It's already September and your regularly scheduled typhoons have been pulling punches or deciding to go in a different direction. The sun seemed to shine a little bit brighter.

Then, life caught up with us. A bus careens off a cliff, killing more than 40 people. A video of policemen apparently torturing a naked, helpless suspect emerges, triggering outrage and handwringing. An irate motorist shoots a bus driver on a hot Metro Manila night. A disgruntled policeman turns a sight-seeing trip into a bloodbath and an international incident. Dengue's shadow sinks its claws into Quezon City, hungry for more. Honeymoons end. The storm gathers. And we are stunned.

We thought things would change. But nothing has, strictly speaking. It's one thing to believe in a leader and protect your right to vote that leader into office. It's a whole other thing to expect your chosen messiah to become a literal savior, someone who can change things with a wave of his hand, with a crinkle on his brow.

It is easy to jump to the conclusion that the expectations were too high for P-Noy. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that the expectations were wrong. We all expected it would be easy, that P-Noy would take care of it.

This attitude is more widespread than we realize. We watch the news in a bemused and also hopeful fashion now. It cannot be denied that we want—demand—an entirely new way of doing things from this administration. We seem to be trying to will the Aquino administration into fixing all that has gone wrong in the last two administrations. It's not enough.

Despite the surprising amount of action being taken by the Aquino government to transform into what it imagines to be the government the Filipino people need and want, we have to be patient. Change cannot be done overnight, no matter how much we want it. It is comforting to know that we seem to have taken a position of alertness, of paying attention, regarding what government is doing now. It is good to know that lessons were learned from the train wreck that was the Arroyo regime. So far, so good, we say to ourselves, and then pat ourselves on the shoulder for doing the right thing.

As the first 100 days of the new administration approaches, we have to acknowledge that a lot of things have gone remarkably well. The Aquino administration has also been lucky. But this can't go on indefinitely, and soon we will have to make the decision: Do we put pressure on the Aquino administration because it doesn't seem to be doing enough, or do we stand up and call for more patience?

It's not surprising that we expect great things from Mr. Aquino and company. That, after all, was what they promised. And it is correct. Things will go wrong, accidents will be made—and they can't be helped. But that is no reason to curb what we want from someone we placed in the highest post in the land. We expect Mr. Aquino to not only meet our expectations, we demand that he exceed them. That was what we voted for when we walked in the morning light to cast our vote last May. We did not vote for mediocrity. We did not vote for the usual.

Our successful selection of Mr. Aquino was a success of our imagination: that we can conceive of a government that does not treat us like marks and enablers. Instead of accepting familiar futility almost from the very start, we deserve a government that understands that, a government that believes it can meet those expectations—and then make them real.

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Diplomatic row: RP-HK or RP-Beijing?

That mayhem of a hostage rescue last week is a humanitarian tragedy that has brought sorrow to the victims' families and shame to our people. It calls for apology and remorse from our side, which we have given contritely and in good measure. It calls for reform from those klutzes in the police, the foreign service and Malacañang who for all our sakes had better shape up. But as the war of words escalates, we must guard against politicians who will exploit genuine human agony for illicit political ends. Let us take stock of what we're dealing with here.

Passion For Reason

By RAUL PANGALANGAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Donald Tsang is the chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), which is a part of the People's Republic of China. He is also a political leader whose approval ratings have been dipping dramatically. The outrage by the people of Hong Kong is genuine, their indignation is justified, and Tsang, as their chief executive, has rightly taken up their cause. But it is equally his responsibility to ensure that tensions do not get out of hand. It doesn't help anyone for the situation to degenerate into endless faultfinding; we Filipinos do that well enough on our own. I imagine that the tragedy at the Quirino Grandstand provides a perfect platform for grandstanding. Tsang must resist the temptation to use the bungled rescue to play Manila versus Beijing for his own political ends. And both Manila and Beijing must tell that to Tsang soon enough.

To start with, he governs under the Basic Law, the "mini-constitution" of the HKSAR. The Basic Law gives Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy in every phase of governance. This Basic Law, together with the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration, carries out Deng Xiaoping's "one country, two systems" policy for Hong Kong and Jiang Zemin's assurance that "the river water will not interfere with the well water."

The Hong Kong government thus exercises executive, legislative and judicial power, but the Central Government in Beijing retains power over defense and foreign affairs. While the Basic Law grants Hong Kong much autonomy in external affairs, allowing it to participate in international meetings and diplomatic forums under the name "Hong Kong, China," still the fundamental principle remains: "The Central People's Government shall be responsible for the foreign affairs relating to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region."

Given that set-up, Beijing's interest is to assure the people of Hong Kong that it remains their steady and reliable protector internationally. Tsang can thus play the "Manila card" against Beijing, and dare Beijing to show how far it will stand by the people of Hong Kong. He can push tensions to the hilt confident that Beijing wouldn't want to be seen as going soft on defending its own people. Beijing is thus caught between its larger foreign policy interests in Southeast Asia and its specific and particular bond with the people of Hong Kong. Conversely, however, Tsang can also overplay his hand and put Beijing in a bind. Since foreign policy is ultimately Beijing's domain, he can shift to Beijing the problems arising under international law while milking the crisis for its full value in domestic politics.

For instance, last week, the Philippine Consulate in Hong Kong was under siege by protesters legitimately exercising their freedom of speech, but reports said the seal of the Republic was defaced by some of the protesters who hung posters over it. Contrast that to how the Philippine government deployed the police to protect the Singaporean Embassy in Makati during 1995 diplomatic standoff between the Philippines and Singapore over the execution of Flor Contemplacion—and successfully prevented similar untoward incidents.

That incident at the Philippine Consulate threatened to breach the inviolability of our consular premises, and HK authorities fell short of the "receiving State['s duty] to protect the consular premises against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the consular post or impairment of its dignity." This would squarely engage the state responsibility of China, but it isn't Donald Tsang who would have to do the explaining on an international plane. That sorry burden to render accounts internationally is easily shifted to Beijing—again, while Tsang reaps political windfall as the champion of Hong Kong's interests.

Thus far Manila authorities seem too fixated in the local zarzuela among its feuding politicians and is oblivious to this dynamic between the Hong Kong politicos and the central authorities in Beijing. I have sensed some saber rattling, with Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, reported to be poised to raise the issue of Tibet and others warning about renewed naval operations over the Spartly Islands.

If this is deliberate, then it is calculated to send a message to Beijing as the seat of China's foreign policy, telling them to cool things down in Hong Kong. If that is so, then we must ensure that Beijing can rein in Tsang without appearing to have compromised Hong Kong's interests. We must do that because it serves no one's interests—neither China's, the Philippines' nor the world's—for sparks to fly over the South China Sea.

If on the other hand it wasn't deliberate and we have simply confused and conflated Hong Kong's and Beijing's interests, then we better recalibrate our rhetoric. We must avoid needlessly antagonizing Beijing who is on our side on this issue but can't show it too openly. Instead we must redirect our message to the people of Hong Kong whose grievance is heartfelt and needs to be satisfied, and segregate the interests of the Hong Kong people from that of their politicians.

A media-twisted idea of normalcy

By MICHAEL SMERCONISH
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Last week's most telling news story had nothing to do with the mosque. Or the election struggles of Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski. Or the president's vacation at the Vineyard.

No, the one story that reveals more than any other about what is going on in America concerns the Miss Universe contest.

Many favored the Philippines' Maria Venus Raj to win this year. But her quest for the crown came to a halt when, in the final round, she had this exchange with Billy Baldwin, one of the judges:

Baldwin: "What is one big mistake that you've made in your life, and what did you do to make it right?"

Miss Philippines: "Thank you so much, sir, for that wonderful question. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Good evening, Las Vegas. You know what, sir? In my 22 years of existence, I can say there is nothing major, major, I mean, problem that I have done in my life. Because I am very confident with my family, with the love that they are giving to me. So thank you so much that I am here. Thank you, thank you so much."

There has been rampant speculation that her answer cost her the crown, and I think I know why: Nobody believed her. A 22-year-old with no baggage? No way. Couldn't be true. Makes no sense.

Because that doesn't match the media depiction of normalcy. We don't celebrate individuals with a clean track record. We shun them. And in their place, we lionize those who make fools of themselves under the guise of reality programming. (If this sounds like a "holier-than-thou" pitch, it isn't. Had someone asked me on Monday night about my mistakes through age 22, I'd still be talking.)

Consider that if NBC's Miss Universe broadcast wasn't your first programming choice, you had some alternatives: "Kate Plus 8" or "Keeping Up With the Kardashians." "Jersey Shore" or Jerseylicious. Maybe "The Real Housewives" of New Jersey and New York and D.C. and Orange County and Atlanta. Or the granddaddy of them all, "The Real World"—where, ironically, nothing appears remotely real.

Society is being conditioned to believe that these shows represent reality. They don't. Is there anything remotely relevant to your life in Snooki's getting arrested for disorderly conduct or The Situation's flashing his abs?

This accentuation of the aberrant becomes self-perpetuating. How else to explain the presidential-like coverage afforded to Lindsay Lohan's ankle bracelet, Britney Spears' buzz cut, and the knucklehead who quit JetBlue? It's because they are each reminiscent of what we see in so-called reality television. That's the world Balloon Boy's parents were seeking when they spent an afternoon leading us to believe that their son was stuck in a runaway Jiffy Pop pan; and it's the same one the Salahis wished to enter when they crashed the White House. In the case of the latter, it worked. Mrs. Salahi now appears on the Washington installment of "Real Housewives."

With that, she joins the growing ranks of individuals famous simply for being famous. Their aberrant behavior is their calling card—one that offers little to no redeeming value. There's nothing new about aberrant behavior. In the past, we celebrated a band like Led Zeppelin because they produced great music—not because of the lore in which they threw televisions out hotel windows. These days, the misbehavior is all you need to be a star.

In this environment, there is no interest or desire to hear someone like Miss Philippines assert that she has no baggage. She refused to participate in the self-flagellation. And unfortunately, she lost out because of it.

Michael Smerconish writes a weekly column for The Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may contact him via www.smerconish.com.*

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

PSS EARMARK

U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan meets with PSS Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Garapan Elementary School principal Yvonne R. Pangelinan, and other PSS officials, librarians, teachers, and students at the Garapan School Library on Monday to present a $100,000 earmarked appropriation for textbooks, library books, and other educational materials for PSS.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GIOVANNI'S BIRTHDAY

Guests pose for the *Saipan Tribune* during the 15th anniversary of Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant, the premier Italian restaurant on Saipan, on Aug. 27, 2010.

CLARISSA DAVID

Hyatt Regency Saipan's in-house Star Society band croons Broadway classics for Giovanni's guests during the Italian restaurant's 15th anniversary on Aug. 27, 2010.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

HOUSE SESSION

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), top-center, is flanked by Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), left, and Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), right, after the House of Representatives passed yesterday morning a bill mandating the Commonwealth Election Commission to conduct an exit poll to get voters' opinion on the U.S. Department of the Interior's report recommending improved immigration status for long-term foreign workers. Also in photo are House clerk office's Linda Muna, and House legal counsels Joe Taijeron and John Cool.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

PALOOZA PARTY

Pacific Islands Club Saipan employees pose with their Bob Marley-inspired outfits during the 2010 PIC Palooza held on Aug. 28 at the hotel resort's Charley's Cabaret. The venue was transformed into a Caribbean luau that served up favorite dishes from the region.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PLAQUE OF RECOGNITION

Henry Yarofalpiy, one of the three sons of Dr. Pius "Mau" Piailug on Saipan, holds the plaque of recognition given by the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture on Wednesday to honor his late father, a legendary traditional master navigator of his times.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Guests pose for the camera at the 2010 PIC Palooza held Aug. 28 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alex and Nora Sablan pose for a photo during the 2010 PIC Palooza held on Aug. 28 the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The fundraising event benefited the Employee Cancer Contribution Fund, the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, and the Pet Animal Welfare Society.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YoungStyle

Surf lessons open new vistas for disabled kids

By FRANK ELTMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LONG BEACH, N.Y. (AP)—The lesson begins on the beach with a youngster lying on a surfboard more than twice her size. After some brief orientation, the child, joined by a world-class surfing coach, is soon paddling about 30 yards into the ocean.

As a modest 2-foot wave appears, the coach and his student begin paddling furiously toward shore. In an instant, the coach eases away from the board and implores his charge to "pop up," and stand on the board. A shriek explodes from excited parents on the beach who scream with glee as the newcomer stands and rides her first wave to shore.

"I knew what I was doing! exclaims 14-year-old Meghan Fink of Seaford, N.Y, who is vision-impaired. "I was able to stand up on that board and I felt the wind through my hair and the water came over my head a few times. It was just amazing."

Learning to surf is a rite of passage for teens in seaside communities around the world. But in recent years in communities from Long Beach, N.Y., to San Diego and Hawaii, children with disabilities ranging from near-blindness to autism have been joining the fun, amazing their parents, their counselors and themselves by hopping up on surfboards and riding the waves.

Such programs have been around for about a decade. No one suggests there are therapeutic cures amid the waves, but the surge in self-confidence is easily evident.

"It's a thrill of feeling yourself in a situation where you have control and you are working with nature to get some pleasure and enjoyment, and that's what surfing is all about," says Harvey Weisenberg, 50-year veteran lifeguard in Long Beach, who has a 52-year-old developmentally disabled son. Weisenberg, also a state lawmaker, is one of the local founders of a program now called "Surf for All," which allows those who never dreamed of surfing the opportunity to "hang 10."

The group recently entertained participants in the Wounded Warriors program, which assists veterans injured in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The feeling of riding a wave is nothing like anything else," says Cliff Skudin, who like his brother, Will, is a professional world-class surfer; both are stars of the surfing magazines. "You feel weightless; it's an amazing feeling to be rising above the waves."

Cliff Skudin, who has a master's degree in physical education, is another Surf for All founder. The program started with five autistic surfers in 2002, but now boasts more than 1,800 alumni.

"Smiles on the kids' faces and cheers from the parents is all I need," Cliff Skudin said when asked to explain why he became involved. "It's a different feeling that they've never had."

He recalls working with an autistic child several years ago who had never spoken. After riding a wave with Skudin, the child arrived back on the beach. "He said, `More, more, I want more.' And the family was just completely shocked."

Meghan Fink, 14, rides a wave while Will Skudin shouts instruction and encouragement from the back of the board in Long Beach, NY, Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2010. Fink is a camper at Camp Abilities, a sports camp for visually impaired or blind children. AP

"To see that was awesome."

The surfers and their coaches aren't the only ones benefiting.

"The adults that come just to see are moved, they have a different insight as to kids with disabilities immediately," says Mary Tatem, director of Pupil Personnel Services in the Long Beach school system. Special needs children from the school system have participated in a summer surfing program for several years, she said.

And the students? "They feel empowered because they're doing something what feels to them to be on their own."

Dr. Andrew Adesman, chief of developmental and behavioral pediatrics at the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Children's Medical Center, notes there have been other types of novel approaches in dealing with children with autism, such as swimming with dolphins, but he warns surfing "is not a breakthrough in therapy."

He also sees few pitfalls.

"I don't see any worries about safety; there appears to be adequate one-on-one supervision," he said. "This is certainly something that parents can encourage and support. Anything you can do to show kids a good time, that's wonderful."

Another Surf for All founder, Jim Mulvaney, explains the concept began about a decade ago in California, where noted surf champ and instructor Izzy Paskowitz began putting autistic children on surfboards in a program called "Surfer's Healing."

Now surf schools in many locations include instruction for disabled children and adults.

"It's just taken off," Mulvaney said. "People with disabilities often don't have enough fun. And they're left out of things and they're often seen as being disabled rather than being abled."

Lisa Innella, director of Camp Abilities Long Island, said she is barred by privacy laws from describing the level of blindness of the students. Most ambled across the beach with little trouble, although some used canes.

"I just want these kids to be able to go out there and try for the first time and enjoy themselves," she said.

Michael Taylor, 11, of East Meadow, whose mother said he has "not much useable vision," fell into the water twice before triumphing on his board.

"I thought it was pretty cool," he exclaimed. "The best part was the third time I stood up on a surfboard."

And what did he learn from his coach, Skudin?

"He told me to pop up. Yep, that's what I did."

John Gilroy, a 14-year-old vision-impaired teen from West Islip, is awaiting hip replacement surgery, but that didn't stop him from commanding the waves.

"It was really cool. It was my first time surfing and even though I can't walk right, I can still go on the surfboard and take the wave," he said. "It was really cool, a really big rush, I guess."

'Dora The Explorer' may change a whole generation

By SIGAL RATNER-ARIAS
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Don't underestimate her just because she's a little girl. "Dora The Explorer" is a multibillion-dollar franchise that may be creating a more enlightened generation, more open to different people and cultures not their own.

Ten years have passed since the Latina Dora became the first bilingual heroine of children's TV and conquered the hearts of kids around the world. Nickelodeon has celebrated the anniversary with a one-hour special that features the voices of Rosie Perez, John Leguizamo and Hector Elizondo, and a documentary with comments from Dora herself, the series' creators, experts from the industry, real-life kids and celebrities such as Salma Hayek and Shakira.

"I think that the fact that kids are identifying with a kid with darker color skin that speaks another language (shows they are more open)," said Chris Gifford, one of the show's creators and executive producers. "Kids want their parents to read them the books and watch Dora with them. ... That's what it's about."

"Dora The Explorer" is seen today in 151 markets and is translated to 30 languages. In English-speaking countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Ireland, Dora teaches Spanish; in other markets—including the Hispanic U.S. markets—the adventurous little girl teaches English.

According to Nickelodeon, "Dora" has generated over $11 billion in worldwide sales since 2002, having sold 65 million units of Fisher Price Dora the Explorer toys, 50 million books and over 20 million DVDs worldwide. In France, publishing house Albin Michel has sold more than 12 million educational Dora books since its launch—or one Dora book for every child in France, the network points out.

Yet, the original idea for the show had nothing to do with a bilingual girl.

Online:
http://www.nickjr.com/dora-the-explorer/

"She didn't start as a Latina or a heroine—she was a forest animal," said co-creator and executive producer Valerie Walsh Valdes. "Nickelodeon actually asked us to consider making her a Latina because a recent study said that there were no positive bilingual characters on children's television."

So producers turned to such experts as historian Carlos E. Cortes, author of "The Children Are Watching" and "The Making—and Remaking—of a Multiculturalist."

"He was absolutely instrumental in helping us find the best way to put Dora forward in terms of culture," said Gifford. Cortes advised that Dora should always be inclusive, so producers decided not to give her a particular country of origin.

"I am delighted with the way 'Dora' has come out, particularly the impact it seems to be having in young people," said Cortes, professor emeritus of history at the University of California, Riverside. "The Latino kids take pride having Dora as a lead character and non-Latino kids can embrace someone different."

"I think that Dora has a very specific special relationship with kids at home, not necessarily for being bilingual but as a powerful character who invites kids on adventures," says Brown Johnson, president, Animation, Nickelodeon and MTVN Kids and Family Group. "Here, Spanish words open doors."

In "Dora The Explorer," the Latin flavor is present not only in the language and Dora's features but also in characters such as Isa the Iguana and Tico the Squirrel, scenes, themes and family values. The little star invites her young, preschool viewers to come with her on an adventure, where she usually faces a problem that she cannot resolve by herself.

Dora asks her audience to answer questions in an interactive show that includes silences that are long enough for viewers to suggest an answer.

"The kids are feeling good about putting together the puzzle bridge (that will solve the problem). ... Dora needs THEIR help!" says Walsh Valdes.

Each episode relies on the advice of educators and cultural experts, and can take more than a year to produce, in part because not one gets into the air without first being screened in front of the most honest and feared jury: at least 75 children. "Just the heartbreak to see those kids disappointed! We really take it personally. ... These 3 year olds," Gifford said. They really listen to the children, said Walsh Valdes.

In this undated publicity image released by Nickelodeon, the animated character Dora, from "Dora The Explorer" is shown. AP

Dora's voice has been portrayed the last three years by Caitlin Sanchez. The 14-year-old succeeded the original voice of Dora, Kathleen Herles, when she left to go to college.

"It's really an honor to play an icon," said Sanchez, who enjoys making the voice of the Latina idol in front of her little fans, who immediately recognize it: "It's Dora!" "She's got Dora inside her mouth!"

"Dora is like the most helping person in the world," the young actress said. "I have learned a lot from her, too. ... She's a great role model."

Stars such as Angelina Jolie and Salma Hayek have spoken about the relationship of Dora with their families.

"There's a 'Dora The Explorer' (episode) where Dora's mom has twins—a boy and a girl," Jolie told People magazine in 2008, noting how her older children got ready for the arrival of her own twins. "They watched that a lot."

"I love Dora! She's been such a part of my relationship with my child," said Hayek at the show's 10th anniversary press conference in March. "I love that it's bilingual and that she's a heroine who has Latin roots."

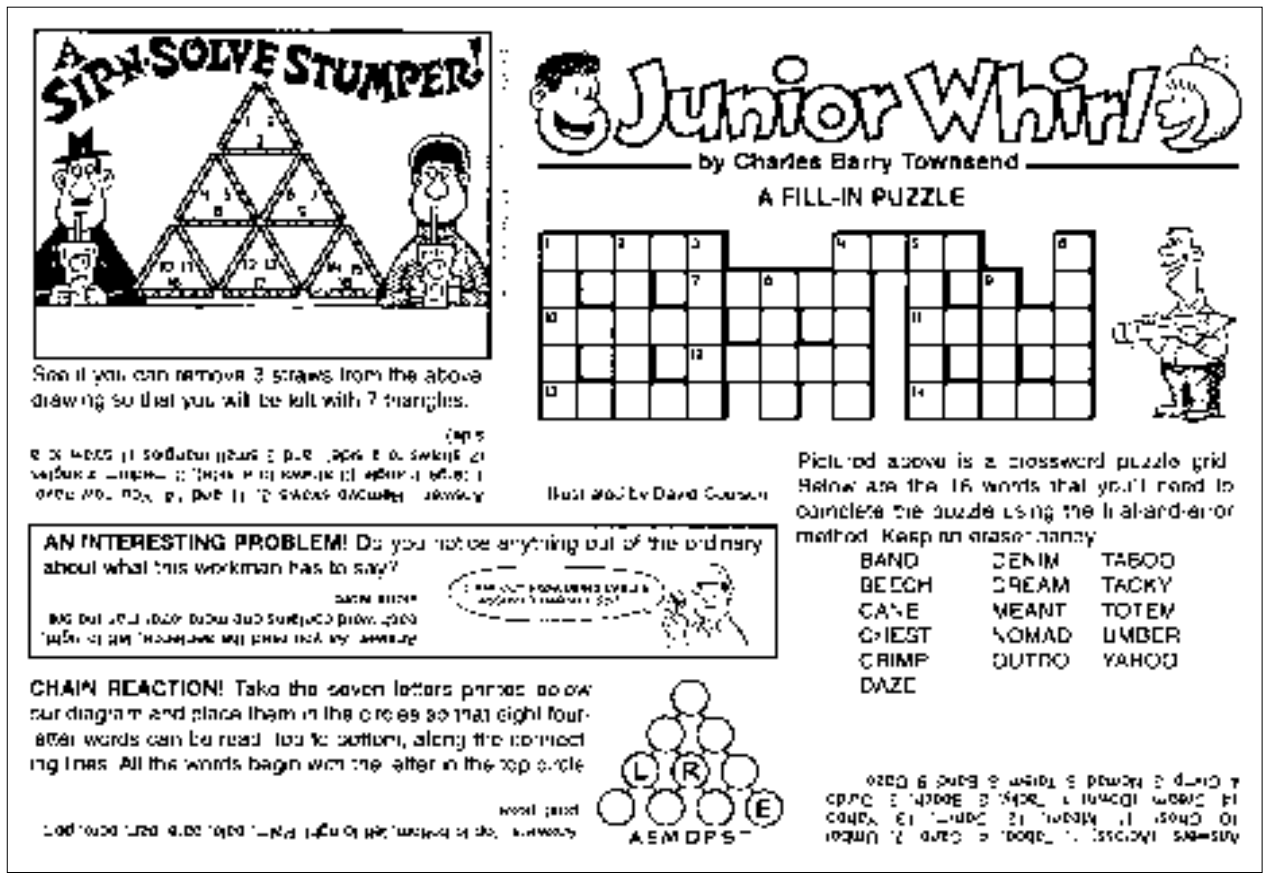
Meanwhile, a Dora balloon made its debut in Macy's 2005 Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York, the first time for a Latino character.

"It's flattering, but it also speaks about how Dora has transcended from just being a preschool show. There's something really amazing in her ability to cross over," said Walsh Valdes.

"Dora" has aired against the backdrop of the immigration debate. When the new Arizona law was announced, a photo of Dora behind bars as a suspected illegal immigrant made the rounds on the Internet.

Such is the influence of Dora, Cortes said, that future fans could affect the political future of America. A 5-year-old viewer in 2000 is now 15.

"It will be another three years until they go to college and be able to vote, and I think we may see a difference. You can't be certain, but our hope is that young people of all backgrounds will be more open," he said. "If Dora can do that, her impact is unimaginable."


A SIPH-SOLVE STUMPER!
Junior Whirl
by Charles Barry Townsend
A FILL-IN PUZZLE
See if you can remove 3 straws from the above drawing so that you will be left with 7 triangles.
Illust. and by David Coulson
Pictured above is a crossword puzzle grid. Below are the 16 words that you'll need to complete the puzzle using the trial-and-error method. Keep an eraser handy.
BAND DENIM TABOO
BEECH DREAM TACKY
CAKE MEANT TOTEM
CHEST NOMAD UMBER
CRIMP OUTDO YAHOO
DAZE
AN INTERESTING PROBLEM! Do you notice anything out of the ordinary about what this workman has to say?
CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words begin with the letter in the top circle.
L R E
AEMDPS

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was author, journalist and political consultant Vic Gold who made the following sage observation: "The squeaking wheel doesn't always get the grease. Sometimes it gets replaced."

■ The record for the longest space flight in history is held by Russian cosmonaut Valeri Polyakov. In 1995 he completed a 438-day stay aboard the Mir space station.

■ It's commonly believed that Eskimos have 50 or more words for different types of snow but no word for just plain snow. In point of fact, that statement is misleading, as the Eskimo language is composed largely of roots and suffixes that can be combined in virtually unlimited ways.

■ A traditional groom in Norway wears short pants, knee socks, and a silk shirt along with a vest and topcoat.

■ Everyone knows that China is the most populous country on Earth today, with nearly 20 percent of the world's population. But you might not realize that there are now more people living in China than lived on the entire planet 150 years ago.

■ A recent item in this column stated that Henry Heimlich believed peanut butter to be the food upon which people most commonly choke. As it turns out, that quotation did not come from Dr. Heimlich. Don't be mistaken, though—according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, peanut butter is a high-risk food.

■ The IRS reportedly spends $2.45 for every $100 in taxes it collects.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "I believe in evidence. I believe in observation, measurement, and reasoning, confirmed by independent observers. I'll believe anything, no matter how wild and ridiculous, if there is evidence for it. The wilder and more ridiculous something is, however, the firmer and more solid the evidence will have to be."—Isaac Asimov

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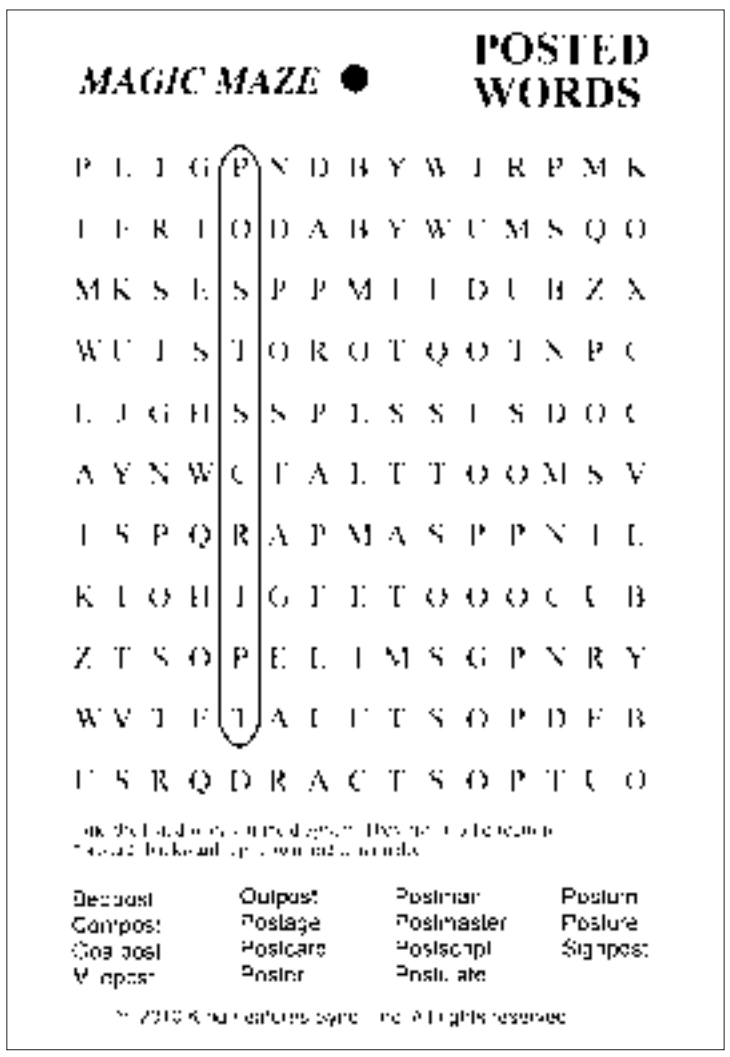
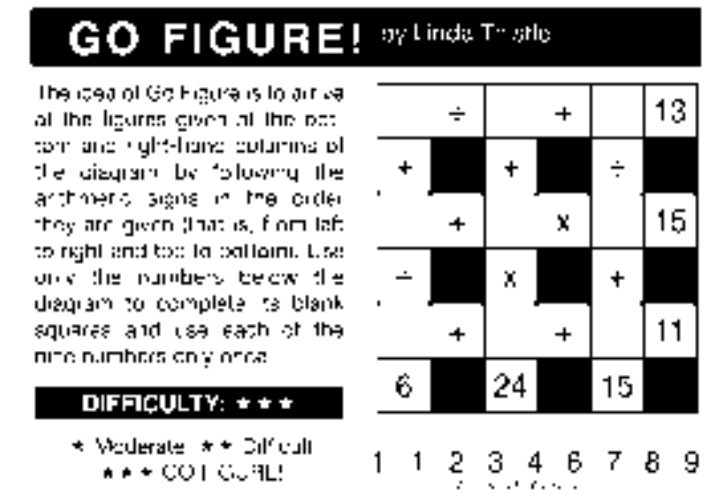
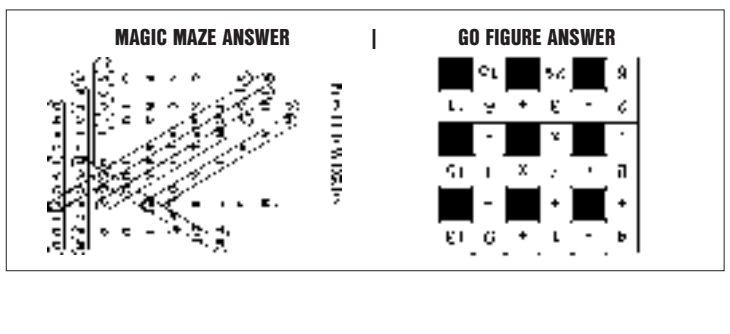



GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle
The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.
DIFFICULTY: ★★★
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ COCONUT!
1 1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9



The cat who came in from the fire escape

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I wanted to tell you a story about the cat who adopted us. In 1930 my brother and I lived with our parents on the fourth floor of a tenement building in the Lower East Side of New York City. We had a fire escape outside the bedroom window of our four-room apartment. In the summer, Mama opened the windows wide to let the fresh air in.

It was on one of these hot summer days that a pussycat brazenly came in through the open window. It looked starved, and my brother and I begged our parents to let it stay. They agreed. We fed "Cat" bread and milk, and later, scraps from our table. Every evening when my father came home from work, Cat would take a flying leap and land on his shoulder. My father loved the greeting.

After awhile though, Cat started leaving through the window again and coming back a few hours later. She also seemed to get fatter and fatter, until we realized she was pregnant. Cat delivered four babies on towels my mother laid out on the bathroom floor. My mother gave three of the kittens to neighbors and we kept the fourth, an all-white male we named "Whitey."

Whitey stayed with us through the winter, but by the next spring he got as restless as his mother and started leaving through the fire escape window. One day he went out and never came back again.—Pearl M., Morse Township, N.J.

DEAR PEARL: Things were so different for pets and their owners back then. Pet food was an unheard-of extravagance, and veterinary care was not so common for housepets. Thank you for sharing!

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions and tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.pawscorner.com.

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Summer memories come into focus

"Now, say CHEEEEEZE!" was a common refrain from 12-year-old Kerynn Smith as she snapped dozens of photos while on vacation with her parents and 8-year-old sister at a family camp this summer.

"When Kerynn received her own digital camera for a gift last Christmas, there was no doubt in our minds that she would become our designated travel photographer," says 43-year-old mom and Head Start consultant Kristen Smith. She and her husband, Glenn, encourage their daughters to take an active role in their trips, and photography fit Kerynn's skills and interest this year.

"When we return home from our travels, we've barely unpacked our bags when we download photos into our computer," says Kristen. "I pop popcorn, play some music, and when we turn out the lights the girls shout, 'Time for the slide show!' We watch all of our previous and new vacation pictures. It's a photo tradition that puts an exclamation mark on our special times together."

Don't let this summer's travel photos hide in files on your hard drive. Here are more snappy ways you can enjoy your pictures.

Fun Post-Production Alterations

Photocopy favorite photos in black and white on plain white paper and change the look of the photo by coloring over the subjects and adding details with colorful markers. What would dad's fishing hat look like with purple polka dots? Paint your car bright-pink, or add a shy bear cub peeking through a branch of a tree.

Write Creative Photo Captions

As you sort photos into events on your computer, or if you print them for a photo book, encourage your kids to think up and write silly and serious captions to capture the memory of the moment the picture was taken.

Share and Compare Across Generations

When your family gets together with grandparents, show off your vacation photos and then take a look at albums from yesteryear to discover what the grandparents did for summer fun and what they looked like when they were your kids' ages.

Decorate with Photos and Souvenirs

As you unpack from vacation, set aside your favorite souvenirs, and for visual impact, arrange them in one place in your home such as on an end table or low shelf. Add a framed collage of travel photos to prompt storytelling and to make the collection personal.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Distributed by King Features Synd.

Life & Style

'Bed Intruder' songster turning fame into a future

By ERRIN HAINES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama (AP)—Antoine Dodson's angry, head-shaking TV interview about an attempted rape against his younger sister in her bed has turned into a chart-topping iTunes song and YouTube hit and made the 24-year-old Alabama college student an Internet sensation.

"So y'all need to hide your kids, hide your wife and hide your husband, 'cause they raping everybody out here," the song's catchy refrain goes.

Dodson plans to use the money from the "Bed Intruder Song" selling for $1.29 a download and T-shirt sales to move his family out of the Lincoln Park housing project where they say the attack happened. But in an era when a viral video clip can rocket anyone to stardom, some suggest that Dodson and his family are being used and that his online rant plays to racial stereotypes.

To think so is to sell Dodson short. He said he is determined to be empowered, not exploited.

"Blessings come in disguise," Dodson said. "This is a golden opportunity for us. I'm gonna take it and run with it."

A typical day for Dodson now includes checking in on his thousands of Facebook fans, photo shoots, pondering a small movie role and juggling media interviews. And while he enjoys the attention, he still is seeking justice for his sister and a better life for his family.

"We're still struggling," Dodson said. "We have a hit on iTunes, but we're still in the projects."

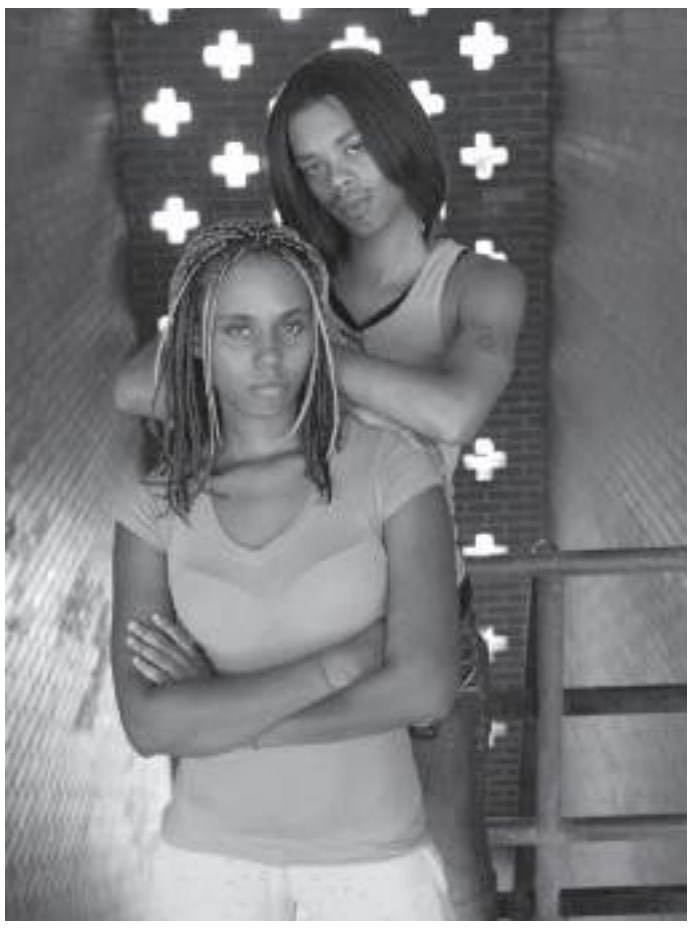
Two months ago, Dodson was a student at Virginia College in Huntsville, majoring in business management and hoping to one day own a hotel or a hair salon. He had worked since he was 16 as a housekeeper and janitor.

He was thinking of moving back to Chicago, his hometown, to start a new life with his 22-year-old sister Kelly and her 2-year-old daughter.

That plan was interrupted one night in late July when Dodson heard a muffled scream from his sister's bedroom. He said he burst in to find a man on top of Kelly Dodson, choking her.

He said he fought off the intruder, who escaped through the kitchen window. The next day, the family called the authorities and the media.

A local TV reporter asked a furious Dodson, "Is there anything you'd like to say to the camera?"



AP
In this photo taken Aug. 27, 2010, Antoine Dodson, 24, and his sister, Kelly Dodson, 22, poses in the stairwell of the apartment complex where Kelly was attacked in Huntsville, Ala.

Emotions raw, Dodson let his words fly. The interview was immediately posted to YouTube.

"Well, obviously, we have a rapist in Lincoln Park. He's climbing in your windows, he's snatching your people up."

Later to the attacker: "We're lookin' for you. We gonna find you. I'm lettin' you know now."

By the next day, the clip had a million hits.

Reactions were mixed. To many, it was a punch line forwarded to e-mail inboxes across the globe. Some were outraged that its popularity seemed to reinforce demeaning stereotypes of African-Americans. Still others saw someone standing up for himself and his community.

Blogger Danielle Belton, owner of the website The Black Snob, said she was initially put off because the attention on Dodson's interview seemed to overshadow the crime at the root of the story.

"What I saw were two people who were very angry and frustrated because crime is so commonplace in poor communities," Belton said. "People got stuck on the humorous aspect of it. What happened to Kelly got pushed to the background."

Later, when she discovered the Dodsons were using the attention to help their family, Belton said she was impressed.

"So many people who have become Internet memes didn't get anything out of it other than grief," she said. "They're spreading awareness, raising money ... taking advantage of this moment."

After the fans came phone calls and offers.

About 1,000 miles away in Brooklyn, New York, musicians Evan and Michael Gregory saw the clip and were sold. The brothers made Dodson the next project in their "Auto-Tune the News" series, which digitally converts the voices of newsmakers into music.

"You could already hear the music in what he was saying," Michael Gregory said.

The brothers pondered the rare next step of putting the song on iTunes. But they said they wouldn't have sold the song without Dodson's buy-in.

"To me, it just seemed like the right thing to do," Michael Gregory said.

In the first 2½ weeks of sales, the song had 60,000 downloads and at least 25 million views on YouTube.

The musicians are splitting the proceeds with Dodson. While the money has begun to trickle in, it cannot come fast enough for Dodson, who, along with his sister, has had sleepless nights since what happened.

TWEETING COMEDIANS

An open mic, in 140-characters or less

By JAKE COYLE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Earlier this summer, Michael Ian Black took to his blog to defend himself against those appalled that the comedian was—gasp!—inserting rare advertisements to his popular Twitter feed.

Black explained that occasionally hiring himself to sell products "allows me the freedom to take less well-paying jobs like making soon-to-be-canceled television shows."

Then he made a more serious point.

"As of today, I've written 2,655 tweets," Black wrote. "That's a lot of free material, all of it contributing to the entertainment of the 1.5 million people who follow me, as well as the multibillion dollar capitalization of Twitter itself."

Black

Fallon

Black is not alone in his situation. Many of the most popular people on Twitter are comedians, and they are collectively perhaps the best. They know how to be economical with words, and they write about more interesting topics than what they had for breakfast.

But comics have a different relationship to the social networking website. It is, after all, their job to make brief, pithy observations and craft precisely worded one-liners. Like news outlets, comedians have to question how much "content" they want to tweet away.

Black says he recognizes some downside to giving away material for free, but believes the pros far outweigh the cons.

"For me, it does two things," Black says of tweeting. "One, it gives me the chance to try out jokes. And two, it forces me to write jokes in the first place."

Black, who came up as a member of the State comedy troupe and has since worked in film, TV and released several books, is also chief content officer for WitStream, a website founded by TV producer Lisa Cohen that gathers the Twitter feeds of only established comedians. Black compares it to a relaxed comedy club, as opposed to Twitter's open mic.

"What I write on Twitter or Witstream is almost never a finished product. It's usually just something I'm thinking in that moment," he says.

"The culture sort of demands a kind a presence that you really have to work hard to provide if you're going to stay in people's minds. For somebody like me, that's important if you want people to show up at your shows or support your television projects."

When Conan O'Brien exited "The Tonight Show" with much fanfare, he took to Twitter as an outlet, like a spigot for accruing monologue jokes. It was a rather interesting turn for O'Brien, who while host of "Tonight" built the Twitter parody sketch "Twitter Tracker" into one of the most popular recurring segments of his brief reign.

One recent example from O'Brien: "Twilight Eclipse has been smashing box office records since it opened. For the record, I was sickly pale before it was cool."

The talk show host, whose TBS show will debut this fall, has proved to be one of the better tweeters around and now has more than 1.4 million followers. But the most popular comedian on Twitter (if you don't count talk show host Ellen DeGeneres) is Jimmy Fallon.

When Fallon took over NBC's "Late Night" last year, he made a point of interweaving the program with social media. He has more than 2.7 million followers.

A *few top-notch tweets from top comedians*

■ "I've grown tired of firework displays. China, please come up with something else for our country."—Kevin Nealon.

■ "I have a Far Side cartoon almost done of a movie theater packed with disappointed deer watching 'Salt.'"—Mindy Kaling.

■ "The Muzak version of 'Careless Whisper' in this lobby has turned a bad song into a sonic hate crime."—Patton Oswalt.

■ "Either the gnomes in our garden are real or someone just hit me in the head. Oh, wait. It's just the booze. Forget I said anything."—Paul Feig.

■ "Walking in New York I make eye contact with people's dogs more than with people."—Kristen Schaal.

■ "When you read *Self* magazine aren't you always a little disappointed that there's nothing about you in there?"—Jim Gaffigan.

■ "This is my twitter cycle: Tweet, tweet more, tweet worse, stop tweeting, regret tweets, swear never to tweet again. Wait. Tweet. Repeat."—Louis C.K.

"Normally, during the day, I tweet out mundane stuff. If I have an idea for a joke, I'll put it in the show," Fallon says. "And then after we tape the show, I'll tweet the joke out, if it's good, if it's one of my favorites. I usually tweet out one or two monologue jokes."

But when it comes to balancing his show and Twitter, the show always comes first, he says.

Or almost always.

"I'm not ashamed of using a joke I had tweeted earlier. I'll take anything," he says. "If I wrote the joke, I can say it."

Unlike O'Brien's feed, though, Fallon's isn't essentially a running list of jokes. He gets deeply involved, responding to fans and interacting with celebrities. Twitter is frequently referenced or used in sketches on "Late Night," too. One, "Late Night Hashtags," takes jokes submitted from fans on the site.

Of course, Black, O'Brien and Fallon are well-known comedians, but Twitter has boosted the profiles of those who aren't familiar to most people.

Brothers Eric and Justin Stangel have long been head writers for CBS' "Late Show With David Letterman" and last year were made executive producers. Historically, though, behind-the-scene writers haven't been widely known outside of the industry.

That has changed with Twitter, where Eric has nearly 20,000 followers and Justin some 7,000. For veteran comedy writers such as the Stangels, churning out jokes is second-nature—and good practice at writing tightly.

"It's sort of just like working out, like exercise," Justin says of tweeting. "It's writing jokes for the hell of it. But if it's something that we really like, then we save it for the show."

It's also given Eric, a big sports fan, a place to unload the kind of commentary that would only be funny to avid ESPN-watchers and would have no place on "Late Show." When something irresistible—such as LeBron James' much-maligned "The Decision" special—happens on an off-week when the "Late Show" is dark, there can still be parodies, if only for a smaller audience.

Last year, CNBNC even named Eric one of the most influential sports tweeters.

"Sometimes, they're just fragments of ideas or they're things we think of when we're not taping. Or sometimes, they are things that didn't make the cut because a better joke has made the air," Eric says. "Usually, what we like to do is put things on Twitter that wouldn't be on the show."

Cee Lo says f-bomb song is 'art'

By MESFIN FEKADU
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Cee Lo's expletive-laden song has been criticized for being in poor taste, but the musician says it's actually a work of art.

"What I've tried to accomplish, like, is making art products ... so I still believe that (the song) can be classified as art because it's an original piece and the edge and alternative is there, and the integrity is intact," he said in an interview last week.

The song, about a gold-digging ex, is titled "(Expletive) You" and he drops 16 f-bombs in just 3 1/2 minutes over a sweet-sounding, retro groove. The current video is a colorful stream of the song's lyrics and its been viewed more than 3.7 million times in the last 11 days on the singer's YouTube page.

Cee Lo

An official video will be released this week and the song will appear on Cee Lo's album "The Lady Killer," out on Dec. 7.

Though the jam has gotten rave reviews, it's also had its share of criticism. Dan Isett, the director of public policy for the Parents Television Council, said in a statement that the song "is just the latest example of an entertainment industry bent on racing to the bottom of the barrel."

But Cee Lo said he was trying to elevate music with the song, and it's something that the music industry does not do enough.

"The system does not, you know, advocate art so to speak, but it does package and promote products and product placement and there's a definitive difference between the two, art and product," he said. "I have yet to sit down and try to write something for the sake of radio. I just never done it, not consciously."

Still, there will be a radio-friendly version of the viral hit: The mildly titled "Forget You" will hit airwaves soon, though Cee Lo says that wasn't the initial plan.

"It wasn't like we were looking for it to be a radio hit of some sort. It was only until a short time after that we considered doing a clean version just in case," he said.

Cee Lo is best-known as one-half of the Grammy-winning duo Gnarls Barkley, who had the instant classic "Crazy." He first appeared on the music scene in 1995 with the Southern hip-hop group Goodie Mob.

Cee Lo calls the success of his latest song "a miracle of some sort." Although he may have lofty views of its artistic merit, he's also aware that it's just a dose of naughtiness too.

"I get to be bad a little bit so that's what was fun about it. It's quite a bit of mischief in that song, so we weren't taking ourselves too seriously," he said.

In October, Cee Lo will host Fuse TV's "Lay It Down," an interview and performance-based show he calls "more intimate (and) off the record."

French 'Spiderman' in Sydney court over climb

SYDNEY (AP) — A French skyscraper climber nicknamed "Spiderman" pleaded not guilty Friday to charges related to his bare-handed climb up a 57-story building in downtown Sydney.

Alain Robert, known for climbing some of the world's tallest and best-known buildings without ropes or other equipment, was arrested Monday at the top of the Lumiere building.

He was charged with risking the safety of another by climbing a building or structure, and unlawful entry of an enclosed area. If convicted on both charges, he could face up to three months in jail and fines of 1,650 Australian dollars ($1,497).

Outside Sydney District Court, Robert said he never meant to disrespect Australian law and denied that his climb had put any lives at risk.

"I was not endangering people," Robert said. "There was no point for me to plead guilty."

Many of his past climbs have resulted in arrests and fines. Last year, Robert was fined AU$750 for climbing the 41-story Royal Bank of Scotland building in Sydney.

The 48-year-old has climbed more than 70 skyscrapers around the world, including the Empire State Building, the Sears Tower and the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, according to his website.

The hearing was adjourned until Oct. 15.

AP
French skyscraper climber Alain Robert climbs the Lumiere Residential building in Sydney, Australia, Monday, Aug. 30, 2010.

Funk band War tells PepsiCo they're not friends

NEW YORK (AP)—Members of the original funk band War say they can't be friends with PepsiCo.

They're suing the soft drink maker for more than $10 million, saying it did not negotiate with them to use their song "Why Can't We Be Friends?" in a new commercial.

Even if PepsiCo and its agencies got rights from the music's publishers or anyone else who owns them, attorney Ken Freundlich and his co-counsel Max Sprecher said the company should have negotiated with the artists too.

In a lawsuit filed Wednesday in Los Angeles, some of the group's original members and a relative said they learned the 1975 hit was in the ad for Pepsi MAX only when the commercials launched in July.

PepsiCo said in a statement it believes the lawsuit has no merit.

"Pepsi has a long history of partnering with iconic celebrities and musicians and we value our relationship with the music and entertainment industry," the company, based in Purchase, New York, said in a statement Thursday.

A spokesman for ad agency TBWA/Chiat/Day declined to comment Thursday, referring all questions to PepsiCo.

The ad is part of a campaign pushing the no-calorie Pepsi MAX. The spot with "Why Can't We Be Friends?" is a remake of the company's "Diner" Super Bowl commercial from 1995, but this time Pepsi MAX is pitted against Coca-Cola's popular Coke Zero.

In the original, one of the best loved commercials from Super Bowl XXIX, delivery drivers from the rival soft drink makers form a short-lived friendship in a diner over music. Backed by the song "Get Together" from The Youngbloods in 1995, and War's hit in this year's ad, the drivers sample each other's drinks and the Coca-Cola driver prefers the Pepsi product. In both ads, the friendship comes to an abrupt — and funny — end.

AP
This undated file image provided by PepsiCo. shows a scene from the Pepsi MAX commercial that features the War song "Why Can't We Be Friends?"

But the War members apparently weren't amused. They have asked for a jury trial and "confiscation of unlawful profits" in amount to be determined.

Original members listed in the lawsuit are Harold Brown, Lee Oskar Levitin, Howard Scott, and Morris Dickerson. Laurian Miller, daughter of Charles Miller, is also a plaintiff.

"Pepsi is selling its billion-dollar brand based on their voices and they have to pay for it," Freundlich said.

This designated driver needs a refresher course

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: A few weeks ago, I met a group of friends at a local pub. "Charlie" was the designated driver. As the evening progressed, I noticed Charlie was drinking beer. When I mentioned it, he said he'd had only three. Then he insisted he was fine and "it was only beer."

I tried to explain the danger of driving while "buzzed" and told him I'd walk home. Charlie then became insulted that I didn't trust him to know his limits. He said I should relax and quit being so uptight.

A few days later, some of my friends told me I had caused "unnecessary drama" that night and that my standards for the designated driver were "unrealistic." They also said that Charlie wasn't drunk and was totally capable of driving. But the fact remains, our designated driver wasn't sober, and I wasn't comfortable getting into a car with him.

I voiced my opinion; now I'm being punished for it. Did I judge Charlie too harshly?

VALUES MY SAFETY, DAVIS, CALIF.

DEAR VALUES YOUR SAFETY: Not in MY book, and not in the one published by the California Department of Motor Vehicles. In its California Drivers Handbook, under the section titled "Designated Driver Program," it lists the requirements for someone to be a designated driver. Among them: "Must abstain from consuming alcoholic beverages for the duration of the outing." That means not drinking anything with alcohol in it. Zilch!

You were right to speak up. In the future, if you decide to socialize with these folks, arrange to meet them. And if the location is not within walking distance, take a cab.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Tracey" is beautiful, caring and fun to spend time with. I fell hard for her and knew I could love her forever. When she broke up with me to "be on her own," I was very hurt.

My best friend, "Henry," says he started sleeping with Tracey right after our breakup. I was his best man when he married "Jill." Now Henry has left Jill for Tracey, and I am left with a sick stomach. How do I heal my wounds while supporting Jill, which keeps them painfully open?

HEARTSICK IN OHIO

DEAR HEARTSICK: One way would be to remind yourself that as "caring and fun" as Tracey was to be with, she had no reluctance about dating a married man. Another would be to level with Jill, explain that spending time with her is a painful reminder of the way you were dumped, and take a break from it until you have healed.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I became fast friends with one of my husband's co-workers after meeting her at a happy hour. We had fun going out, usually to dance clubs.

One night when my husband tagged along, I overheard her tell him, "If you weren't married, I could be with you." When I confronted her about it the next night, she apologized, saying she had been feeling no pain and can't believe she said it. My husband chalks it up to her being stupid drunk, but I can't let it go.

Now when I see her at work functions, I am cordial and she acts like nothing ever happened. We could have been great friends if she hadn't said what she did, but each time I think I can bury the hatchet, I get angry and upset all over again.

Should I just get over it? Or am I justified in feeling I can't be friends with someone I can't trust?

DISTRUSTFUL IN ILLINOIS

DEAR DISTRUSTFUL: You're justified. And I'm saying it cold sober.

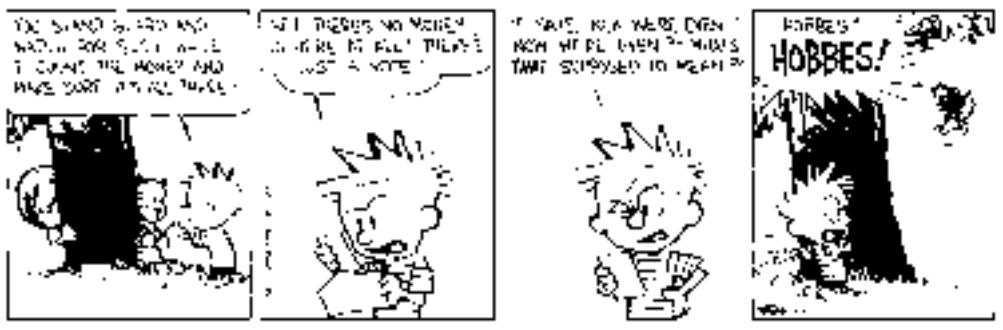
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

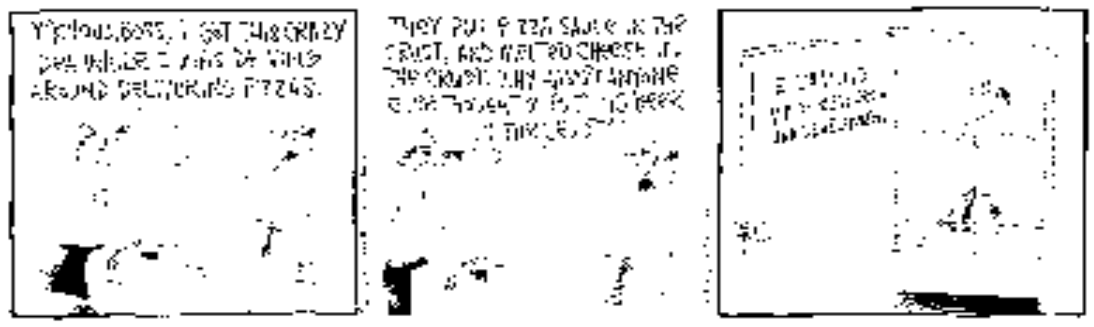
THAT'S MY PROM PICTURE
I DON'T THINK MY DATE ENJOYED THE EVENING
SHE RUINED HER DRESS TUNNELING OUT OF THE GYM
AND NO DOUBT, BROKE A NAIL OR TWO
YEAR BOOK

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



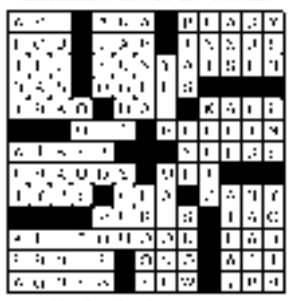
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

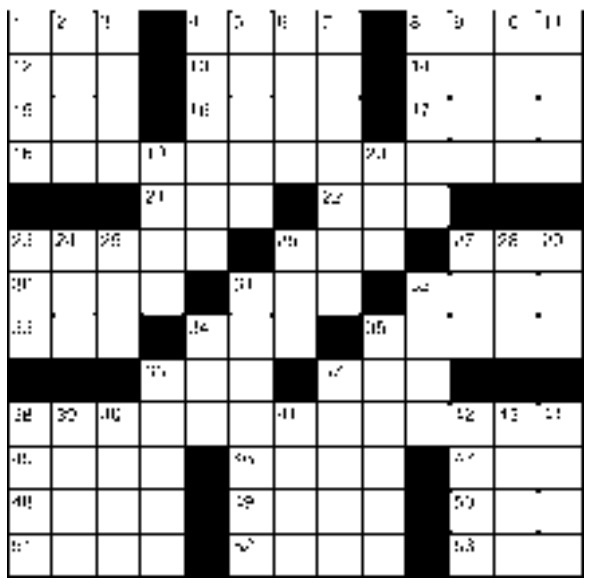
ACROSS
1 "Married ... With Children" mom
4 Holidays
8 LPA concern
12 Swiss canton
13 Father (Fr.)
14 Superhero garment
15 Round Table address
16 Weak as an excuse
17 La Scala show stopper
18 In disorder
21 Wet wriggler
22 Mischievous lynx
23 Colorado skiers' mecca
26 Serengeti antler
27 Mod watchdog org.
30 Standard
31 Insect
32 Life stories briefly
33 Sorrow quencher
34 Mid May honoree
35 Ben Franklin's wife
36 Lubricate
37 Feathery accessory
38 1980s silicon scout lens
45 Salinger heroine
46 Incursion
47 Sindbad's bird
48 Heidi's range
49 Raw rocks
50 "This tastes terrible!"
51 Medicine measurement
52 Agin
53 Overly

DOWN
1 Shove
2 Pennsylvania port
3 Lass
4 Ill will
5 Oyster's gill
6 Weaponry
7 Orca's hunt for
8 Resell for a big profit
9 Shopping center
10 Mayberry moppet
11 Paraphernalia
19 Man cats and dogs
20 Flightless bird
23 Promise
24 Piglet's parent
25 Expert
26 Wrigley merchandise
27 Hall a sawbuck
28 Happy companion?
29 Bonfire residue
31 Waist-length jackets
32 Sweetheart
34 "Cool" amount
35 Foreslike
36 Not just plump
37 Thorny plant
38 Out of play
39 Scandinavian city
40 Diamond arbiters
41 Flan ingredient
42 Very dry, as wine
43 Trademark symbol
44 Revolve-ale

Solution time: 27 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-3535 (99¢ per minute, touch-tone only phone; 18+ only). A King Features service. NYC

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Beyonce Knowles, 29; Ione Skye, 40; Mike Piazza, 42; Dr. Drew Pinsky, 52

Happy Birthday: Don't give in to emotional tactics that will set you back. A strong sense of responsibility will guide you in the right direction. Don't let the uncertainties of people around you cloud your vision. You know what must be done and have an intuitive edge when it comes to money, work and making choices conducive to a better future. Your numbers are 3, 11, 16, 23, 26, 31, 40

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't overreact to situations that can alter a relationship you value. A loving, affectionate response to anyone you love or whose friendship you respect will help to keep the peace and lead to a better understanding. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't sit there complaining about being bored or unhappy. If you don't like what is going on, take responsibility and drum up your own entertainment. You will learn a lot from people who know how to have fun. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take a break. The more relaxed you are, the better you will feel. Avoid letting someone or something at work play on your mind. Now is the time to enjoy more and do less. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll be difficult to get along with if things don't go your way. Take a back seat before you harm a relationship that means something to you. There is only room for generosity and kindness if you want to avoid trouble. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Keep your thoughts to yourself and your plans a mystery. A surprise you have for someone special will turn out well. Don't let an opportunity slip away because you don't have the time, when all you have to do is reschedule your plans. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You can offer suggestions and set up reforms that will help a group you want to join. Networking will lead to new connections. It's the overall outlook and interaction you have with others that will make a difference. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take a back seat for the moment and observe. It's not your turn; if you try to take it now, you will be faced with questions you may not be able to answer. Too much too soon will lead to mishaps. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can't avoid what needs doing by hiding or not making a move. Face whatever comes your way and you will gain respect as well as confidence. A trip or move will lead to bigger and better things. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't overspend, overdo or overindulge. It is likely to cost you an important friendship as well as an opportunity to get your ideas heard. Make changes to your home that stabilize your position and bring you additional recognition. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Take care of personal business. The more time spent looking after something that can alter your life in the future, the better you will feel. Don't let an emotional encounter with someone lead to a change of plans. Complete what you set out to do. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Forget about work and colleagues and concentrate on your personal efforts to make your life better. Love and romance are in the stars. An opportunity to join forces with someone you care about will reduce your overhead and personal debt. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your creative ideas can pan out nicely as long as you don't overspend getting them off the ground. Talks will lead to options you haven't considered in the past. Don't let your emotions or feelings stand in the way of progress. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a compassionate perfectionist. You aren't afraid to follow your beliefs. You are original and innovative.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		1	5	7	8	3		
	2						9	
	1			9			6	
	3		4		7		2	
	5			8			7	
	9						8	
		7	3	5	9	4		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	7	4	2	8	9	3	6	7
2	9	8	6	3	7	4	5	1
7	6	3	5	4	1	9	2	8
4	5	2	8	1	3	7	9	6
6	8	7	9	2	4	5	1	3
9	3	1	7	6	5	2	8	4
8	2	9	4	7	6	1	3	5
1	7	5	3	9	8	6	4	2
3	4	6	1	5	2	8	7	9

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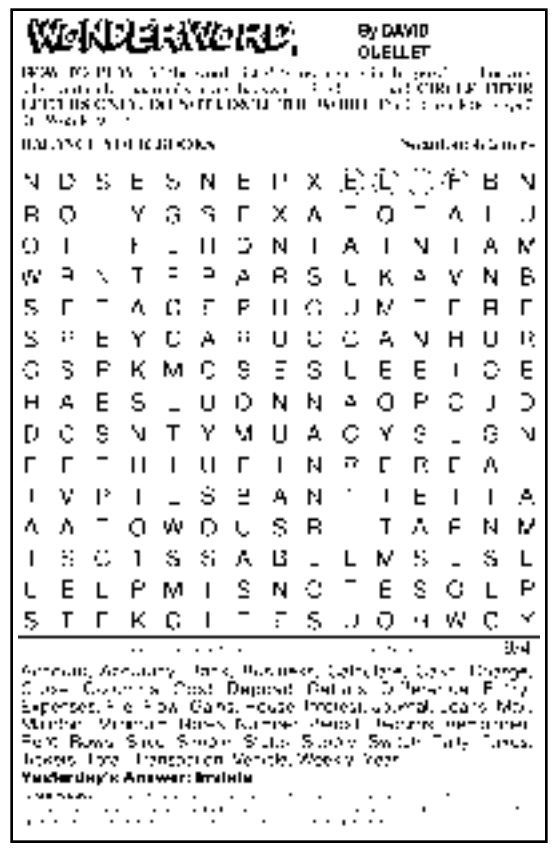
WONDERWORD

By DAVID OLELLET

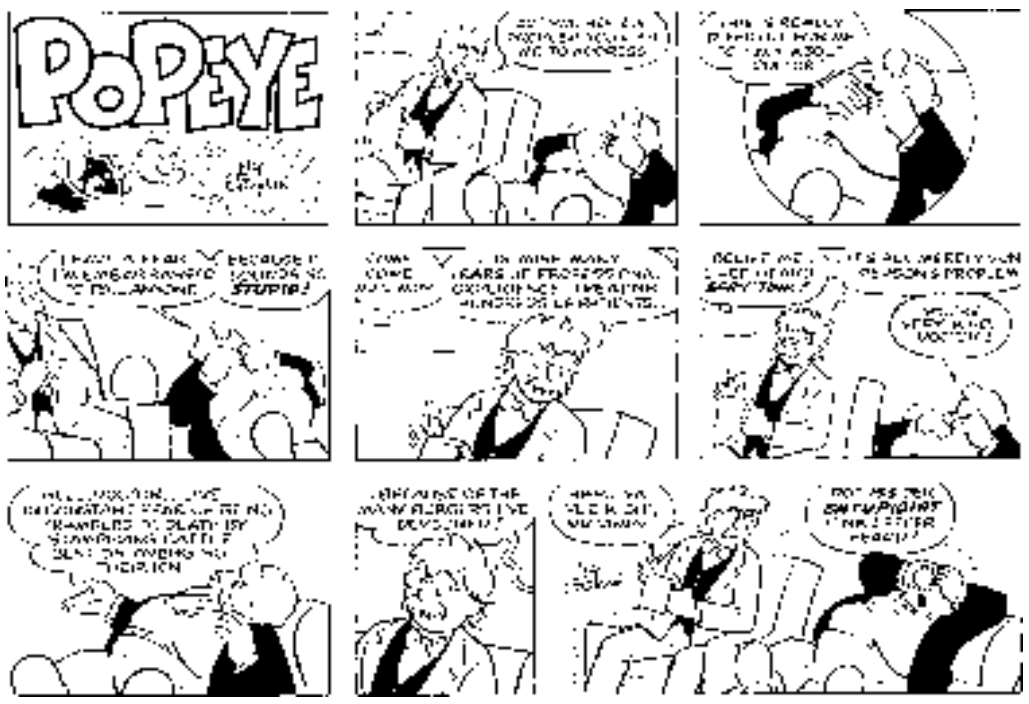


HOCUS-FOCUS

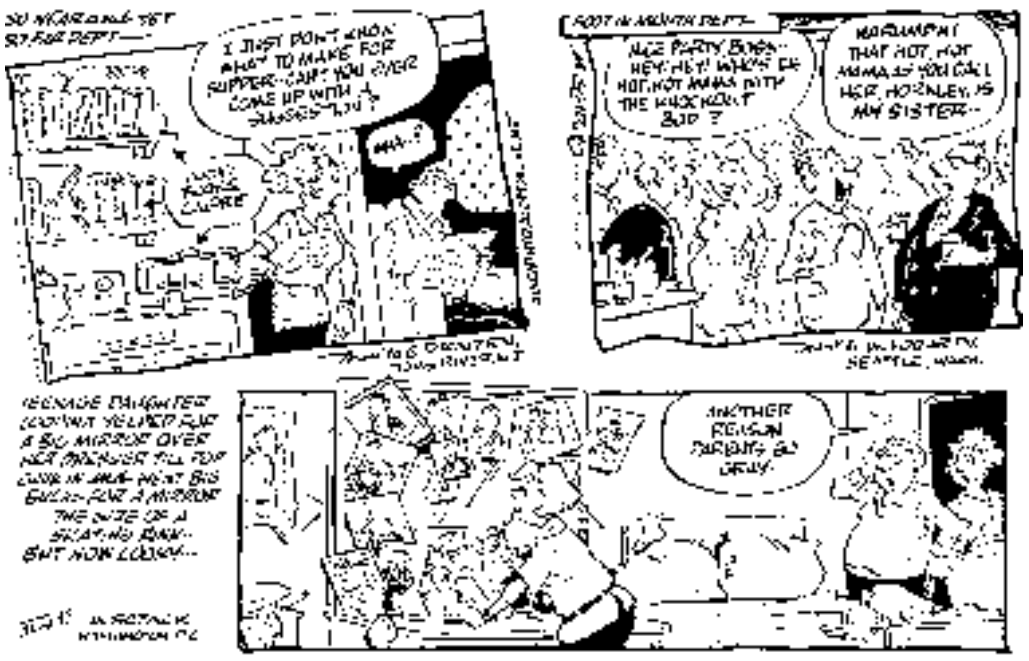
Wishing Well®

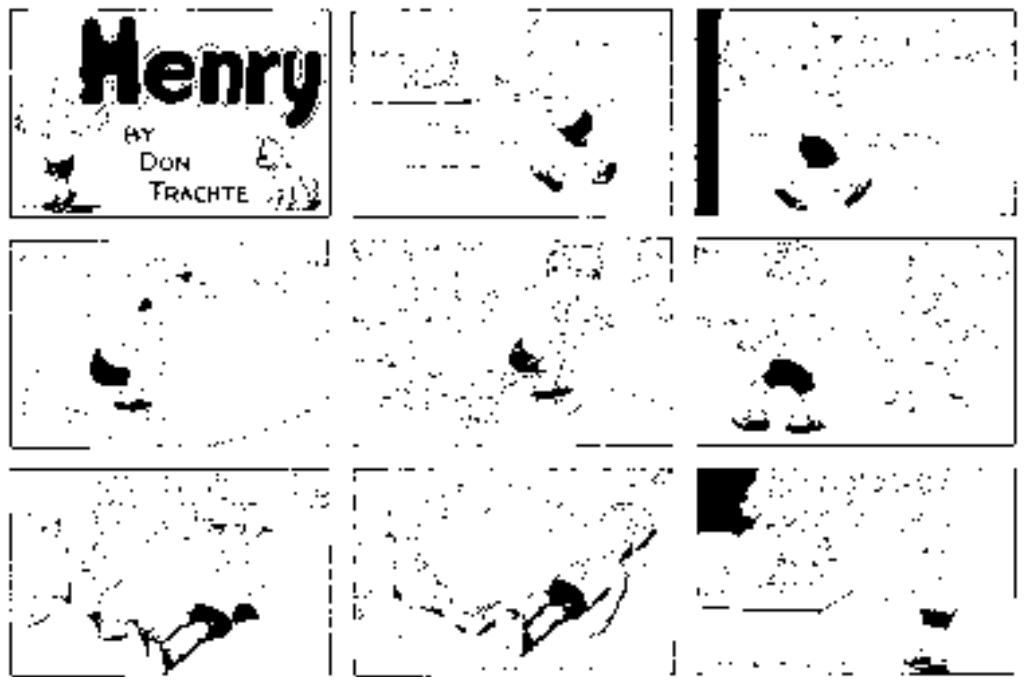
6	7	5	6	4	7	5	3	6	4	7	3	4
R	F	N	F		O	F	D	S	N	R	U	C
3	7	8	4	5	4	7	3	2	3	4	5	6
'	C	I	K	W	E	I	I	U	E	A	F	K
4	3	7	4	2	4	8	3	4	3	2	6	8
S	S	V	E	C		A	I	N	N	N	I	Y
5	6	6	3	4	2	6	U	7	3	7	2	5
O	N	T	C	W	O	R	D	F	R	O	T	U
6	5	2	6	2	3	5	5	3	7	5	3	4
'	N	H	C	E	E	Y	U	A	I	O	S	A
3	5	5	2	7	3	8	2	4	5	2	6	7
E	L	'	S	H		U	T	G	R	A	S	E
5	2	6	5	7	5	4	5	6	4	7	5	2
F	T	F	A	R	I	F	V	F	S	S	F	F

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your future. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 5. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.



They'll Do It Every Time by Al Scaduto



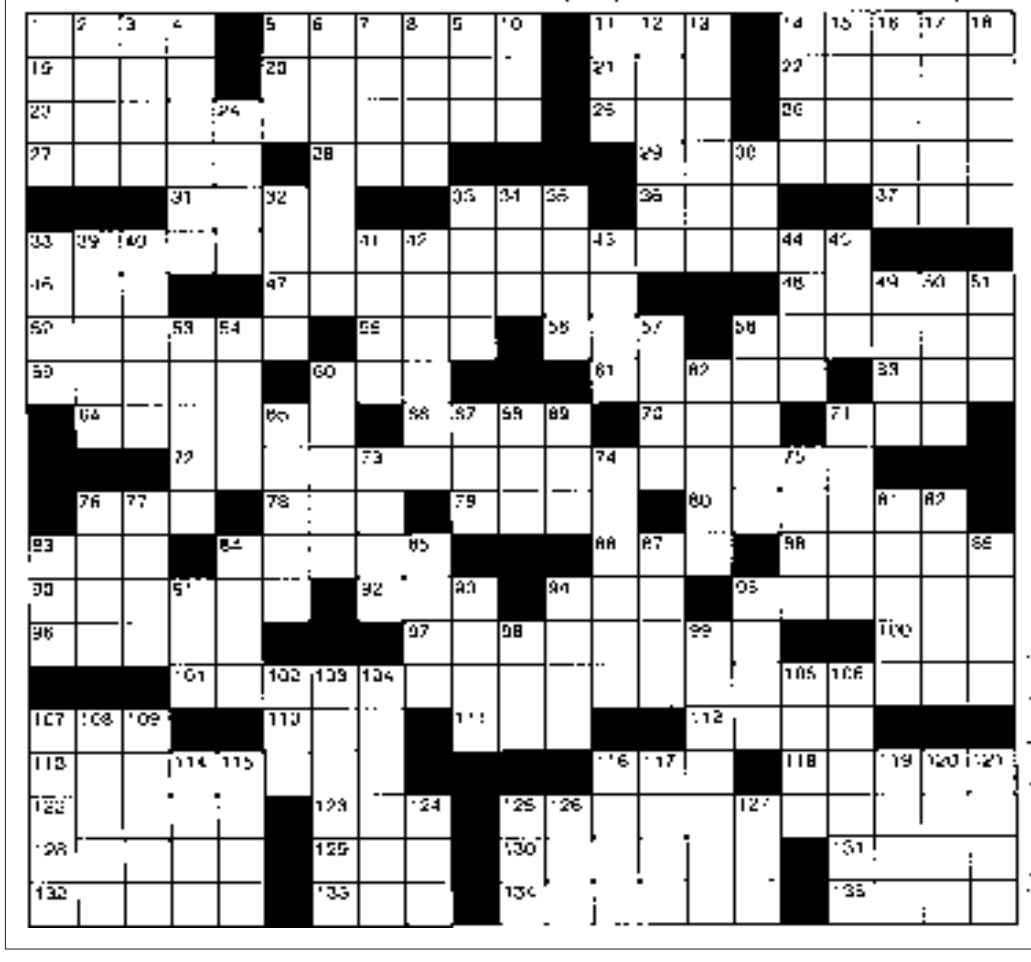


Super Crossword

PARTY OF ONE

ACROSS
1 Pay to play
5 Merry
11 Oft. equipment
14 Vicious
19 Gravel (with)
20 Culmination
21 Stingy sib
22 Songwriter Greenfield
23 Speaker of remarks at 29 Across
25 Writer Rand
26 Stiller's partner
27 Club creed
28 Bit of sunshine
29 Start of remarks
31 Columnist Bombeck
33 Author Quindlen
36 What the French fry
37 High hats
38 Part 2 of remark
40 Zinc or copper
47 Quick comeback
48 Lamb product
52 Dennis, in pna
55 Cambridge staff
56 Arkansas firs.
58 Flowering shrub
59 Cookie quantity
60 Mr. Baba
61 Make a hammerhead
63 Joan Van Gray
64 Wilde's Gray
66 Division of Miles
70 Tam-o'-shanter
71 "Ask Girl" (99 film)
72 Part 3 of remark
76 TV's "Miami —"
78 Quiet mouse
79 Singer Tori
80 Jennifer of "Big Love"
83 Ad committee
84 Put on guard
86 Campanile or Clark
88 Compassionable
90 Slick
92 Solemnly swear
94 Cauliflower
95 Anxious
96 Pastoral poem
97 Button or strap
100 DC figure
101 Part 4 of remark
107 Sal and Darkur
110 Sameover
111 Affirmative vote
112 Give a hoot
113 Part 5 of remark
116 Ring seal
118 Build
122 San Diego de la Vega
123 Chips' accompaniment
125 End of remark
126 Park, CO
129 SWALK commander
130 Sled
131 Around the corner
132 Smallest
133 Salt's sound
134 Loathe
135 Big rig

DOWN
1 Pandie
2 Sleuth Wolfe
3 Work in the lab
4 Hammered on "Hamlet"
5 Mouth piece?
6 Work
7 Fountain order
8 Unlikely to allure
9 Born
10 — Peres MD
11 Cope org.
12 "— River" ('55 tune)
13 Electronics buy
14 Verne caplain
15 One of the Waughs
16 Roofing material
17 Alpine area
18 TV's "The Wonder —"
24 Comic Crosby
30 "Agnus —"
32 "Insignificant
33 Reiser Jr.'s
34 Gamas band
35 Oil cartel
38 Pyramid, for one
39 Mountain nymph
40 Slowly, to Schubert
41 Autumn bulbstone
42 Mouth watering?
43 Musical Myra
44 Pullover part
45 Youth org.
49 Anstyce poetry
50 Well ventilated
51 Run up the phone bill
53 Cajetle
54 Vandyke are
57 Nom
58 Cosmetician Elizabeth
60 Aromatic plant
62 Vex
65 Dickens title start
67 Letter from Athens
68 Stage stage
69 Bother
71 Conndential comment
73 Coach Levy
74 Where to detain the hors
75 Cue ma accessory
76 Connecticut senator
77 Stern
81 Herd
82 Light tool
83 "Bel —"
84 Singer Guthrie
85 Vegan staple
87 Sarah — Jewett
89 Director Adrian
91 Brownie, for one
93 Capricious
94 Sicilian volcano
95 Air bear?
98 — Arbor Langdon
99 Prom dains
102 Capek play
103 "Nightmare on Elm Street" villain
104 Silverware city
105 Word with lamb or hog
106 Long-legged waders
107 "— love"
108 Faced the day
109 Study compulsor
114 "— bien!"
115 Throw a party
116 Demonstrative pronoun
117 Holliday of "Mallock"
119 Piece of fencing?
120 Drainag, e g
121 Garr of "Mr. Mom"
124 Energy
125 Vintage
126 Widgeon or Woods
127 Saucepan



Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. PSYCHOLOGY: What is aviatophobia?
2. HOLIDAYS: When did Christmas become a federal holiday in the United States?
3. FOOD & DRINK: What color replaced tan in M&M candies in 1995?
4. ASTRONOMY: Triton is a moon of which planet in our solar system?
5. LITERATURE: Who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2007?
6. HISTORY: What startling discovery did Howard Carter make in 1922?
7. MUSIC: Who composed the opera "Tristan and Isolde"?
8. FASHION: When was the first modern brassiere invented?
9. ENTERTAINMENT: What were the names of the five Marx brothers?
10. GAMES: In Monopoly, what color is the Oriental Avenue square?

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Answers
1. Fear of flying
2. In 1870
3. Blue
4. Neptune
5. Doris Lessing
6. Tutankhamun's Tomb
7. Richard Wagner
8. 1913, by socialite Mary Phelps Jacob
9. Groucho, Chico, Harpo, Gummo and Zeppo
10. Light blue

Saturday's Answers

The Spats by Jeff Pickering

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EXAMINATION

Find today's solution in this section

US defeats Tunisia after sluggish start

ISTANBUL (AP)—Eric Gordon scored 21 points and the United States pulled away after a sluggish first half to beat Tunisia 92-57 Thursday in its final game of pool play at the world championship.

With nothing to play for, the Americans sleepwalked through most of the early start, leading the winless team by only four points early in the third quarter before turning it into a rout over the final 15 minutes.

The U.S. (5-0), seeded first in Group B, next plays on Monday against Angola, the No. 4 seed from Group A.

The Americans misfired on nine of their 10 3-point attempts in the first half and failed to show any sustained stretches of good offense.

Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook each scored 14 points for the U.S. team and Stephen Curry had 13.

Marouan Kechrid scored 15 points for Tunisia, which went 0-5 in its first appearance in the world championship.

Australia 76, Angola 55

Patty Mills scored 11 points to help Australia clinch third place in Group A.

Australia broke open the game with an 11-0 run in the second quarter. No player scored in double figures for Angola (2-3), which played without top scorer Olimpio Cipriano.

Australia (3-2), the third seed from Group A, will play Slovenia on Sunday in the round of 16.

Serbia 84, Argentina 82

Aleksandar Rasic made four free throws in the last 11 seconds to help Serbia upset Argentina for the top seed in Group A.

Argentina captain Luis Scola sank two free throws with 38 seconds left to make it 77-77, but Serbia forward Dusko Savanovic hit a 3-pointer with 18 seconds remaining to put his team in front.

Savanovic led Serbia with 19 points and Nenad Krstic added 18. Krstic played his second game after a three-game suspension for a brawl against Greece.

Scola scored 32 points, his fourth straight game of 30 or more.

Both teams advanced to the knockout stage with 4-1 records. Serbia plays Group B No. 4 seed Croatia on Saturday and Argentina takes on Brazil, Group B's third seed, on Tuesday.

Slovenia 65, Iran 60

Goran Dragic of the Phoenix Suns scored 18 points, and Slovenia surged into the elimination stage with a victory over Iran.

The Slovenians (4-1) won their last three games after losing to the United States to take the No. 2 seed from Group B.

Miha Zupan added 15 points for Slovenia, while Sani Becirovic and Bostjan Nachbar each scored 10.

Hamed Haddadi of the Memphis Grizzlies finished a strong tournament by scoring 15 points for Iran, the Asian champion that went 1-4 in its first appearance in the world championship.

Brazil 92, Croatia 74

Marcelo Machado scored 18 points, Anderson Varejao grabbed 12 rebounds in his longest stint at the world championship, and Brazil clinched third place in Group B.

Leandro Barbosa had 17 points and Alex Garcia added 15 for Brazil (3-2), which bounced back from a pair of narrow losses. They took control by hitting 7 of 10 shots in the second quarter.

Marko Popovic scored 15 points for Croatia (2-3).

AP

USA's Kevin Durant, right, stops Tunisia's Salah Mejri during their World Basketball Championship preliminary round match in Istanbul, Turkey, Thursday, Sept. 2, 2010.

Turkey 87, China 40

Oguz Savas scored 20 points and Turkey cruised to victory in its final group game.

Turkey (5-0), which had already won Group C, went on a 20-0 run to lead 39-13 at the break. It plays France, fourth in Group D, on Sunday.

China (1-4) reached the next round on points differential ahead of Ivory Coast and Puerto Rico, getting a matchup against Group D No. 1 Lithuania on Tuesday.

Russia 73, Greece 69

Timofey Mozgov scored 18 points to send Russia (4-1) to the knockout round as the second seed in Group C.

Andrey Vorontsevich's dunk with 4 seconds to go in the third quarter increased Russia's lead to 16 points. The game was tied 30-30 at halftime.

Sofoklis Schortsanitis scored 16 points for Greece (3-2), after having missed two games because of a suspension following a brawl with Serbia.

Russia (4-1) finished second in Group C and plays New Zealand on Monday. Greece (3-2) took third and will play Spain, second in Group D, on Saturday.

Ivory Coast 88, Puerto Rico 79

Charles Abouo scored 19 points to lead Ivory Coast to the victory over Puerto Rico.

Neither team advanced out of group play.

Mohamed Kone had 17 points and 10 rebounds and Mamadou Lamizana added 17 points for the Ivory Coast (1-4). Jose Barea scored 19 points for Puerto Rico (1-4).

Spain 89, Canada 67

Rudy Fernandez and Fran Vasquez each had 19 points, while Ricky Rubio had eight points and eight assists to lead Spain to its second consecutive strong game in the rout of winless Canada.

Spain (3-2) earned the second seed to get the matchup with Greece.

Kelly Olynyk led Canada (0-5) with 14 points, and Jevohn Shepherd had 12.

Lithuania 84, Lebanon 66

Guard Renaldas Seibutis led Lithuania with 17 points, and Martynus Gecevicius added 16 as Lithuania ended pool play with a 5-0 record.

Lebanon (1-4) had already been eliminated, its fate in the six-team group sealed with a loss to Spain on Wednesday.

Rony Fahed scored 19 points to lead Lebanon in the teams' first meeting in a major international tournament.

Federer beats the heat, Beck; Soderling looms

NEW YORK (AP)—Roger Federer is one cool customer.

The temperature climbed into the 90s yet again Thursday at Flushing Meadows, and the guy showed up for work wearing a warmup jacket. Then he put in his 1 hour, 41 minutes on court, dismissing 104th-ranked Andreas Beck of Germany 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 with the help of 15 aces, to ease into the third round of the U.S. Open.

"It's about just saving your energy for the really big match coming up, maybe the next one," Federer said, perhaps mindful that he was pushed to five sets in the opening round at Wimbledon in June before eventually losing in the quarterfinals at a second consecutive major tournament.

He dropped all of seven games in the first round of the U.S. Open, and the owner of a record 16 Grand Slam titles is feeling pretty good about things at the moment.

"It's the perfect start, sure. I played Monday; had two days off. I had another easy one physically today, and here I am in the third round feeling like I'm completely in the tournament," said Federer, a five-time U.S. Open champion and the only man left in the field who has won it.

"I got a sense for how the court speed is again. I got the sense of the crowd and the wind now, as well. I played one night, one day," he continued. "I have all the answers after two matches."

In other words: Let everyone else sweat it out.

Like Kei Nishikori, the 147th-ranked qualifier from Japan, who fought cramps in his racket-holding right hand and elsewhere while taking a minute shy of five hours to wrap up a 5-7, 7-6 (6), 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-1 victory over 11th-seeded Marin Cilic.

"It was very humid. It wasn't easy to get the oxygen," said Cilic, a U.S. Open quarterfinalist last year, and an Australian Open semifinalist in January.

The 20-year-old Nishikori began feeling his muscles tighten in the second set but didn't really begin worrying until after trailing 2-1 in sets.

"I was thinking about it in fourth set, mostly: 'Even if I win this, I have to play one more set. It's not going to be easy for me, you know, cramping,'" said Nishikori, who reached the fourth round two years ago, the first Japanese man since 1937 to get that far at the U.S. Open. "But I was able to fight through."

His was one of a handful of upsets on Day 4 of a tournament that is quickly accumulating surprises. Beatrice Capra, an 18-year-old from Ellicott City, Md., made like 2009 U.S. Open darling Melanie Oudin and ousted No. 18-seeded Aravane Rezai of France 7-5, 2-6, 6-3.

No. 9 Agnieszka Radwanska lost to Peng Shuai, and No. 22 Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez lost to Patty Schnyder. Seeded winners included 2004 champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, 2008 runner-up Jelena Jankovic and 2010 Wimbledon finalist Vera Zvonareva. Top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki, like Federer, didn't waste any time on court, blanking 84th-ranked Chang Kai-chen 6-0, 6-0.

At 371st, Capra is the lowest-ranked woman left. She's also the youngest—and not only is she making her Grand Slam debut, she's playing in the main draw of a tour-level event for the first time. She said she "watched every second" as Oudin, then 17, reached the quarterfinals 12 months ago.

"I really look up to Melanie," said Capra, who earned a wild card from the U.S. Tennis Association by winning an eight-entrant playoff. "You know, it was really inspiring to me."

One of the women Oudin knocked off in 2009, three-time major champion Maria Sharapova, awaits Capra in the third round. Wearing tuxedo lapels on her deep purple night-match dress, Sharapova beat 68th-ranked Iveta Benesova of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-2 under the lights.

"When I was younger, I used to always look up to her," Capra said about 2006 U.S. Open champion Sharapova, who is all of 23 now, "and so I think it will be a really good match for me to see where I am compared to that kind of level."

Asked what she knows about Capra, the 14th-seeded Sharapova said: "Not too much. I know that she's American, and she's 18, I believe, and she's in the third round of the Open, so that says a lot."

Sharapova was followed into Arthur Ashe Stadium by 2008 Australian Open winner Novak Djokovic, whose 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (6) victory over 52nd-ranked Philipp Petzschner of Germany was interrupted briefly in the eighth game while police escorted out three spectators after a fight in the upper deck.

Djokovic made it to at least the semifinals in New York each of the past three years—and lost to Federer each time.

Among those winning in the afternoon were Richard Gasquet, a former top-10 player who eliminated No. 6-seeded Nikolay Davydenko 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; Robin Soderling, a two-time French Open runner-up who beat American Taylor Dent 6-2, 6-2, 6-4; and South Africa's Kevin Anderson, who outlasted No. 26 Thomaz Bellucci 6-7 (4), 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (2).

Americans Mardy Fish and James Blake won, as did No. 13 Jurgen Melzer, No. 21 Albert Montanes, and No. 22 Juan Carlos Ferrero. Blake, a wild-card entry, will take on No. 3 Djokovic in the third round.

The No. 5-seeded Soderling's next opponent will be 48th-ranked Thiemo de Bakker, who advanced Thursday when Ivan Dodig quit in the fourth set because of cramping.

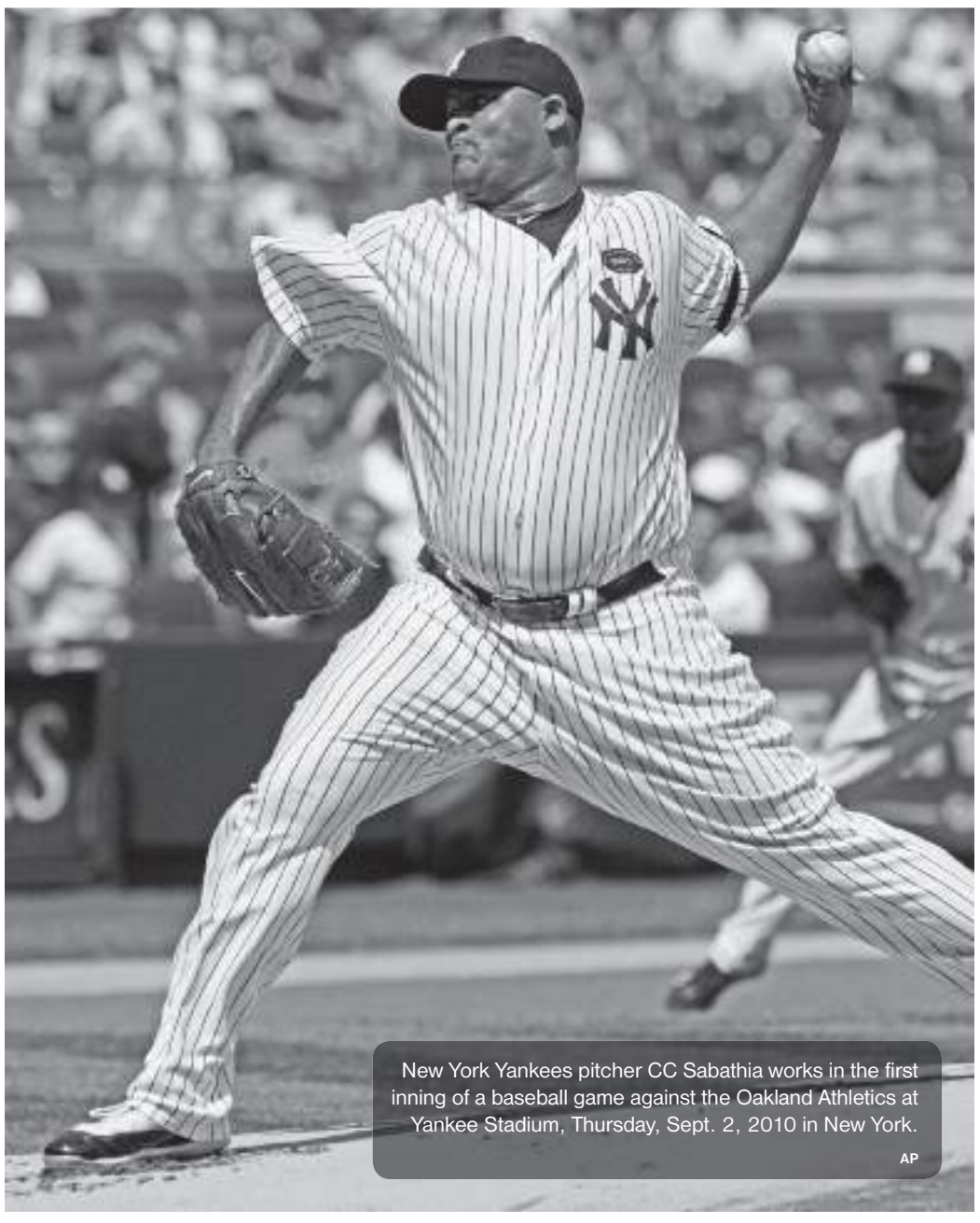
Sabathia steers Yankees past A's

NEW YORK (AP)—New York pitcher C.C. Sabathia gave up only one hit over eight innings to earn his major league-leading 19th win, and steer the Yankees to a 5-0 win over the Oakland Athletics in the American League on Thursday.

Sabathia (19-5) gave up a single leading off the second, but thereafter gave the A's nothing as New York completed a four-game sweep and opened a 1-1/2 game lead atop the AL standings.

Curtis Granderson hit a solo homer and a two-run shot as a replacement for Nick Swisher, who left after one inning because of a stiff knee.

Oakland starter Dallas Braden (9-10) left in the sixth inning with heat-related cramps, when trailing 1-0.



New York Yankees pitcher CC Sabathia works in the first inning of a baseball game against the Oakland Athletics at Yankee Stadium, Thursday, Sept. 2, 2010 in New York. AP

Tigers 10, Twins 9, 13 innings

In Minneapolis, Gerald Laird hit a solo home run in the 13th inning to lift Detroit over Minnesota.

Laird, who entered the game in the 11th inning, homered off Nick Blackburn (8-9).

Detroit's Jose Valverde (2-3) pitched a career-high three innings of relief.

The Twins led 7-3 going into the eighth and 9-8 in the ninth only to let both leads slip away. Their AL Central lead over the White Sox was cut to 3-1/2 games.

The Tigers left 15 runners on base and the Twins 10 in a game full of missed opportunities at the plate and blunders in the field.

Red Sox 6, Orioles 4

In Baltimore, Adrian Beltre homered to spark a five-run second inning as Boston downed Baltimore.

The Red Sox moved within 6-1/2 games of Tampa Bay in the AL wild-card race.

After missing his previous start with a sore back, Boston pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka (9-4) gave up four runs in 5 2-3 innings and took the win.

Baltimore starter Brad Bergesen (6-10) gave up five runs, two earned, and issued a career-high five walks in 5 1-3 innings.

Indians 6, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Shin-Soo Choo drove in five runs with a bases-loaded double and a two-run home run to boost Cleveland to victory over Seattle.

Choo hit a fastball from Doug Fister (4-11) against the right-center-field wall in the Indians' four-run sixth to score all three runners without a throw.

He added his two-run shot in the ninth to match his season-high for RBIs. Choo leads Cleveland in home runs (16) and RBIs (68).

Indians starter Josh Tomlin (3-3) lasted six innings, allowing three runs and no walks.

Mets 4, Braves 2

In Atlanta, David Wright homered, Johan Santana won for the first time in four starts and the New York Mets snapped the Atlanta Braves' five-game winning streak with a victory.

The Mets, who had dropped three straight, broke a 13-game stretch in which they scored three runs or less against the NL East-leading Braves.

Tim Hudson (15-6) lost for the first time in nine starts after allowing eight hits and four runs—three earned—with one walk and four strikeouts in seven innings.

Santana (11-9) left after five innings, his shortest outing in 23 starts, throwing 65 pitches. The Mets later announced that the left-hander had a strained pectoral muscle and was listed as day-to-day.

Phillies 12, Rockies 11

In Denver, Chase Utley drove in six runs and hit a grand slam to cap a nine-run seventh inning as the Philadelphia Phillies overcame a four-run deficit to beat the Colorado Rockies.

Utley's six RBIs tied a career high and came after Ryan Howard and Jayson Werth also went deep during the big inning in which the Phillies collected nine hits and all but buried the Rockies' playoff hopes.

Antonio Bastardo (1-0) benefited from the Phillies' big inning, getting the win despite allowing a run and four hits in one inning of relief, and Brad Lidge got the last three outs for his 19th save in 24 chances but not before giving up a run.

Despite a 20-hit night, Colorado trials Philadelphia by 6 1/2 games in the NL wild card chase, a deficit that has ballooned from 3 1/2 games since Monday night.

Boston's Pedroia concedes surgery possible on foot

BALTIMORE (AP)—Boston Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia is bracing for the possibility of having season-ending surgery on his broken left foot.

Pedroia will be examined on Friday.

"I have a CT scan early in the morning," Pedroia said Thursday before Boston's game against the Orioles. "If I have to have surgery, we'll do it later in the day."

The injury originally occurred in late June. Pedroia returned for two games in August, then went back on the 15-day disabled list. The 2008 AL MVP and the Red Sox hoped for his return this month, but his recovery hasn't gone as swiftly as anticipated.

Pedroia is reluctant to write off the 2010 season, but acknowledged surgery is probably the best solution.

"I think that would make it heal more," he said. "They said there's like a 50 percent chance that (without surgery) I could feel better and still, like what happened last time: I played two games and not be able to walk the next day.

"Putting the screw in is probably the best idea. It's a 90 percent chance that I heal, that that bone heals," he said. "So there's a good chance I'll have the surgery at some point."

Pedroia averaged 150 games over the past three season. This year, he's batting .288 with 12 homers and 41 RBIs in 75 games. By having surgery now, Pedroia would be able to get a jump on his offseason workouts.

"I don't want to get to January and go through my workouts and not feel good and then I miss some of next year," he said. "None of us want that to happen."

Also for Boston, catcher Jason Varitek ran hard in the infield Thursday and also is scheduled to have a CT scan on his broken right foot. If the examination is encouraging, Varitek could begin a rehabilitation assignment this weekend, manager Terry Francona said.

Woods looks to keep going at FedEx Cup

NORTON, Mass. (AP)—A chart of FedEx Cup standings at the Deutsche Bank Championship showed Tiger Woods at the top, not unusual considering he was won the cup and its $10 million prize every year he has played.

This chart was different.

It listed the 10 players who are on the bubble at the TPC Boston, starting with Woods at No. 65 through Josh Teater at No. 75. Only the top 70 after this week will advance to the third round of the playoffs at the BMW Championship, where Woods is defending champion.

Woods has failed to defend a title when the tournament has changed dates or when he was injured. Never has he not gone back to a tournament as the defending champion because he was not eligible.

"It's been a different year," Woods said.

It might be showing signs of turning around. One tournament is not enough to declare Woods' game is back, although his tie for 12th at The Barclays was his best finish since June. Plus, it got him into the second round of the FedEx Cup playoffs.

And for the first time since the Masters, when he returned to golf after a five-month layoff, Woods went through an entire press conference without a mention of his broken marriage or how it got to that point.

Even so, it remains odd to see Woods so far down any list.

Matt Kuchar is No. 1 in the FedEx Cup standings on the strength of his victory last week to open the four-tournament playoffs. Steve Stricker is No. 2 and the defending champion at the TPC Boston. They are assured of reaching the final round.

Woods is only assured of making the weekend because the Deutsche Bank Championship doesn't start until Friday, the lone tournament on the PGA Tour schedule that ends on a Monday.

"I'm starting to see some progress, which is nice," Woods said. "Mentally, I'm hitting the ball much better, hence I have more confidence. I'm driving the ball much straighter, hitting the ball a little bit farther, especially with my irons. And those are all positive signs. It's just a matter of making it a little bit more natural. And that's just reps."

Whether the tournament lasts any longer than Labor Day depends on the path of Hurricane Earl - the same name as Woods' late father. The forecast was for good weather through noon on Friday before it starts getting nasty, with the worst of it late Friday afternoon and into the night.

The tour moved tee times up as much as it could with a 99-man field—40 minutes—with hopes of getting the round in. Officials will decide Friday morning whether to play lift, clean and place to protect against the late starters having to return Saturday morning to complete the first round in what could be a swamp.

"It will be awesome to get this finished tomorrow," said Mark Russell, a vice president of rules and competition for the tour.

So much is at stake this week—not one cup, but two.

For the 99 players—Kenny Perry pulled out on Wednesday—the goal is to finish in the top 70 in the standings to advance to Chicago and the BMW Championship. It's far more tense for the 14 players that U.S. captain Corey Pavin has on a white sheet of paper he keeps in his pocket, all of them candidates to be among his four Ryder Cup picks.

Woods figures to be a lock. Zach Johnson is getting plenty of support as another pick. For the rest of them, the Deutsche Bank Championship is one last chance to make an impression on the captain, and even that might not be enough.

"There are no promises out there to anyone," Pavin said. "I think everyone is mature enough to understand that."

The players on his list were all invited to his barbecue during the PGA Championship, meaning they will get a phone call next week to say whether they made the team. The only addition was David Toms, a runner-up at Greensboro two weeks ago.

Pavin invited the eight players who qualified for his team—Phil Mickelson had not yet arrived—to dinner Wednesday night. He is soliciting their opinions, and said all the players are coming up with the same list of seven or eight guys who would be good picks.

"I think he's got a pretty good idea who his picks are going to be," Stricker said. "I mean, I think he still has some questions. I think it depends a lot on what happens here this week, and he wants to have some players step up and show him something. I don't think anybody is set in stone yet, but I think he's really looking forward to see what's going to happen here."

Stricker doesn't have to worry about that, nor does Matt Kuchar, who made his first Ryder Cup team. They can think exclusively about the FedEx Cup for now, both in prime position to chase the $10 million prize.

Woods, meanwhile, is trying to stay in the top 70 of the standings after this week, although his primary goal hasn't changed whether he's No. 65 or No. 1 in the FedEx Cup.

"I go out there and tee it up to win the tournament," he said.

Black Pearls shine in C-Kingfisher

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Black Pearls beat USS Peleliu Club's SlowHand, 10-5, at home at Buddies to hike its win-loss record to 39-36 last Wednesday in the C-Kingfisher Division of the Saipan Electronic Dart Association.

Buddies' Chagi Fan is still in full control of the division with a 48-27 mark, followed by Black Pearls and Sabalu (38-37).

Other games that went down Wednesday saw Charlie's Sabalu defeat D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Lucky Shots at home and Chagi Fan go on the road at D'Pirates Bar & Grill and dominate the Lucky Shot.

Black Pearls 10, Slow Hand 5

Jay C. Sablan, Diony Camacho, and Janice Camacho of home team Black Pearls won three of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double out games to give their team an early lead. Then both teams won a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket and a Partners 501 Double In/Double Out match. David Terlaje, Sablan, and Pedro Teregeyo won three of the four Singles Regular Cricket matches; Teregeyo's win gave the Black Pearls the automatic victory. The Black Pearls then swept both Partners Baseball games and Slow Hand took the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out match.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Black Pearls pose for a photo at their home bar Buddies after defeating USSP's Slow Hand in last Wednesday's SEDA C-Kingfisher match.

Sabalu 8, Lucky Shots 7

Both teams won a pair of Singles 301 Double In/Double Out matches, a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket and a match of Partners 501 Double In/Double Out. Then Rodney Aguon, Everett Indelacio, and Ray Anthony Aguon of home team Sablau won three of the four Singles Regular Cricket games. Rodney Aguon and Ray Indelacio of Sabalu won the first Partners Baseball game to clinch the automatic win. The Lucky Shots won the second baseball game and the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out match.

Chagi Fan 11, Sang and the Gang 4

Augustin Hocog, Shawn Dela Cruz, and Jesse Borja of visiting Chagi Fan won three of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out to jump their team out in front. Both teams won a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket before Chagi Fan swept both Partners 501 Double In/Double Out matches. Dela Cruz, Borja, and Ken Villagomez of Chagi Fan won three of the four Singles Regular Cricket matches; Borja's win gave Chagi Fan the Automatic win. Then both teams won game of Partners Baseball and Sang and the Gang took the final team 1001 Double In/Double Out game.

Buddies Locals has slim lead in A Division

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Buddies Locals defeated Naked Fish Boyz at home to maintain pole position in the A Division of the Saipan Electronic Dart Association Monday Night.

The 11-6 win against Naked Fish improved Locals' win-loss card to 52-33, a game ahead of second-running Right There and Promos, which are tied with 51-34 marks.

In other matches Monday, D'Pirates Bar & Grill's CK-Destroyers bested Charlie's Vargas Snipers in a home game and Buddies Flying Dartsmen dominated road team Buddies Bud Brothers.

Locals 11, Naked Fish Boyz 6

Both teams won a pair of Singles Regular Cricket matches before the home team Locals swept both Partners 501 Double In/Double Out games. Then both teams won a pair of Singles Sniper matches before the Locals swept both games of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket. Greg Sasamoto, Poli Tereyama, and Robert Dela Cruz of the Locals won three of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out, while the Naked Fish Boyz took the final Team 1001 Cherry Double In/Double Out. Sasamoto's victory secured the automatic win for the Locals before they added two more games for first place in the standings.

CK-Destroyers 11, Vargas Snipers 6

Jeff Barit, Romy Intendez, and Manding Legaspi of the home team CK-Destroyers won three of the four Singles Regular Cricket games to give their team an early lead. Then the CK-Destroyers swept both Partners 501 Double In/Double Out matches and team members Barit, Legaspi, and Noel Navarro won three of the four Singles Sniper games. Both teams took a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket, but the victory by the CK-Destroyers sealed their automatic win. Then both teams won a pair of Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games and the Vargas Snipers won the final Team 1001 Cherry Double In/Double Out.

Flying Dartsmen 12, Bud Brothers 5

Wilson Quiban, Patrick Taitano, and Benancio Aguon of the home team Flying Dartsmen won three of the four Singles Regular Cricket matches to put their team out in front. After both teams won a game of Partners 501 Double In/Double Out and a pair of Singles Snipers matches, the Flying Dartsmen went on to sweep both games of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket. Flying Dartsmen's Quiban, Taitano, and Aguon won three of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games before their team took the final Team 1001 Cherry Double In/Double Out. Quiban's win sealed the Flying Dartsmen's automatic victory before they tacked on the three extra wins.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	84	50	.627	—
Tampa Bay	82	51	.617	1 1/2
Boston	76	58	.567	8
Toronto	69	64	.519	14 1/2
Baltimore	49	85	.366	35

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	77	57	.575	—
Chicago	73	60	.549	3 1/2
Detroit	66	68	.493	11
Kansas City	56	77	.421	20 1/2
Cleveland	54	80	.403	23

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	75	58	.564	—
Oakland	65	68	.489	10
Los Angeles	65	69	.485	10 1/2
Seattle	52	82	.388	23 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	78	56	.582	—
Philadelphia	76	58	.567	2
Florida	67	65	.508	10
New York	66	68	.493	12
Washington	57	77	.425	21

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	78	55	.586	—
St. Louis	69	62	.527	8
Houston	62	71	.466	16
Milwaukee	62	71	.466	16
Chicago	57	77	.425	21 1/2
Pittsburgh	44	89	.331	34

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Diego	76	56	.576	—
San Francisco	74	60	.552	3
Colorado	69	64	.519	7 1/2
Los Angeles	68	66	.507	9
Arizona	55	79	.410	22

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Mets 4, Atlanta 2
Philadelphia 12, Colorado 1
N.Y. Yankees 5, Oakland 0
Boston 6, Baltimore 4
Detroit 10, Minnesota 9, 13 innings
Cleveland 6, Seattle 3

PHYSICALLY

From Page 28

71. They committed a lot of turnovers in that debut match, falling on the floor more often than converting their fastbreak plays.

To train for the Games, the Nationals joined various leagues here and were noted for their run-and-gun offensive game and trapping defense. However in Palau, opportunities to run were limited and the Nationals found no alternative on their offensive sets to avoid a disastrous finish in the tournament. They were inconsistent with their outside shots and were not that effective in the paint either.

At the end of the round-robin tournament, the Nationals fell short in advancing to the playoffs, finishing the elimination round with a 2-4 record, which was good only for sixth place.

"Our best game was against Palau, everything clicked together," Aguon said of the team's 67-61 win over the host.

Besides the victory over Palau, the CNMI also prevailed against Chuuk, 80-64, in the elimination round. The Commonwealth then lost to the Marshall Islands, 68-87, Kosrae, 88-95, and Guam in its last game in the round-robin elimination, 70-83.

The Nationals' misfortunes continued in the end when they surprisingly bowed to Chuuk, 68-72, in the ranking game, dropping the CNMI to a disappointing last place finish.

"The worst game was our last game against Chuuk. We should have won this game, but it seemed because it was just a placing game, the effort was not there," Aguon said.

Aguon hopes that the experience in Palau will give the CNMI players valuable lessons and will help the Commonwealth cagers improve in future tournaments.

"One of our weakness was experience. Only three guys played for the last Micro Games. This is a young team so my hope is that they will continue playing and training together. This will create more cohesiveness," Aguon said.

"Plans are in the works for our national teams to play against the best in the region. This will prepare us for tournaments such, as the Micro Games, South Pacific, and Oceania. We cannot just play on island games and think we are ready for such tournament, it helps but not enough," he added.

Despite their dismal finish, Aguon said he is still proud of the team.

"We showed signs of greatness when we played our game. We were not pushovers, the other teams had to work extra hard to beat us," Aguon said.

"I would like to thank NMC, BANMI, UBA, Docomo Pacific, Arnold Mesa, UFO, and the UBA referees [Lito Salas and Amor Cassabuena] for their support. Most of all, I would like to thank the players and their families. While we tried our best to come back with a medal and failed, their hard work and dedication for the last six months of training must not go unnoticed. I am very proud of you," he added.

MICRO

From Page 28

dhi Gurung, Su Yung Dong, and Luke Lu.

The CNMI finished second behind host Palau in the overall medal standings with the former collecting 44 gold medals, 23 silver, and 25 bronze for a total of 92 medals. Palau had a 54-44-31 gold-silver-bronze tally to rule the Games that run from Aug.1 to 10.

Guam came in third with its 20 gold medals, 25 silver, and 21 bronze, followed by the Marshall Islands (19-18-20), Yap (13-11-15), Pohnpei (12-15-19), Chuuk (8-7-8), and Kosrae (1-1-12).

OCEANIA

From Page 28

Tuesday and since then have met people who are active in cycling here. The Australian informed Saipan bikers about the pathways to becoming a member of Oceania Cycling Confederation and the benefits that go with being a part of the group.

"I believe at present the CNMI has no association that solely caters to bikers. But, I hope people here will find ways to have one. Once you become a member, we can help you in many ways," Victor said.

In absence of a cycling group, the CNMI has the Saipan Adventure Sports Club headed by Russ Quinn. Quinn, along with active bikers Kieran Daly and Joshua Berger had already met with Victor. The Australian cycling officials learned that the local federation is planning to have a cycling group as an associate member.

"I will inform the confederation about the status of cycling here and I will see if having a cycling group as associate member of one local federation will qualify the CNMI to become a member of OCC," Victor said.

Once a member, Victor said OCC can help the island-nation run its tournaments, conduct clinics for coaches and riders, and then someday bring the CNMI's top riders to tournaments in New Zealand or Australia or anywhere OCC holds races.

Victor added OCC has plans of helping federations run cycling tournaments in the Pacific Games and Micronesian Games with the winners of these races eventually qualifying to compete in the Oceania Championship.

"We are looking at a lot of possibilities and opportunities for small island-nations in the region that is why we are reaching out to them. We want them to enjoy the same benefits we are getting," Victor said.

Saipan was Victor's first stop for his tour in Micronesia this month. Today, he will head to Guam for a three-day visit and then to Palau where he will stay for five days to discuss the development of the sport in the region.

ORBITA

From Page 28

phies for second and third place, and the winner of each qualifying tournament also won a trophy.

The final tournament starts at 7:30pm Sunday with a blind draw for pairings in the 16-player bracket. The tournament is double-elimination 8-ball, following Billiard Congress of America rules.

For more information, call Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. ***(USSP)***

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Micro Games gold medalists are top athletes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Associations recognized CNMI athletes' achievements in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau, naming the event's gold medalists as NMASA Male and Female Athletes of the Month.

Leading the list of August awardees were swimmers Rezne Wong, Kai Staal, Kensuke and Shin Kimura, and Grace Kimball.

Wong collected 13 gold medals and one silver in Palau and earned the Outstanding Male Athlete of the Micronesian Games award. He led the CNMI team to a sweep of the three relay events at the Palau National Swimming Pool in Meyuns.

Staal notched six individual gold medals and three silver; Kimball won three gold medals and one silver; Kensuke had one gold, two silver, and one bronze; and Shin went home with one gold and one bronze.

Several members of the CNMI Tennis Team were also included on the list of athletes feted by NMASA during its monthly meeting last Thursday night at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Mamiko Oshima-Berger, center, stands in the medal podium joining two Guam runners after receiving her gold medal in the women's 10K race in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau last month.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Named top performers for August were singles gold medalists Kana Aikawa and Todd Montgomery. Joining Aikawa in the elite group were teammates Mayuko Arriola, Jodel Fernandez, and Lydia Tan, who prevailed in the team event against Guam.

The CNMI Triathlon Team is also on the list, having won the team event against Palau. Members of the squad were Mieko Carey, Matt Mancao, Lewie Tenorio, and Kieran Daly.

Carey also prevailed in the women's individual race, while Daly ruled the men's division.

Track and field athletes made the NMASA monthly awardees' roll, too. Leading the list was Micronesian Games 100m record holder Yvonne Bennett. Joining her are Mamiko Oshima-Berger, Ryan Ichihara, Jacque Wonenberg, and women's relay team members Yvonne Bennett, Lia Rangamar, and Reylynn Sapong.

Completing the monthly awardees was the CNMI Table Tennis Team, which gave the Commonwealth gold medals in the team event, men's doubles, and men's singles. Members of the squad were Steve Lim, Bu-

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'Physically ready, mentally not'

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI National coach Rufino Aguon, right, sits beside player Jose Tumaquip with the look of frustration on his face, as the Marshall Islands started pulling away in their game in the 7th Micronesian Games at the Palau National Gymnasium last month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

"Tia de Prerii" CNMI Men's Nationals coach Rufino was blunt in giving his squad a below average mark in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau last month.

"I believe we will rate ourselves at three since we placed last in the tournament, which had seven participating teams," said Rufino Aguon when asked to grade the Nationals' performance in the Games with 10 as the highest and one as the lowest.

"Our team was physically ready for the Games. But, mentally we did not adjust ourselves to the slippery conditions on the court. Most of the guys got hurt during our first game against Pohnpei because the floor was so slippery and some of these guys did not really recover after that," Aguon added.

The Nationals controlled the first half of its game against Pohnpei, but lost in the end, 67-

See PHYSICALLY on Page 27

Oceania cycling group aims to boost membership

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Oceania Cycling Confederation vice president Mike Victor concluded his four-day visit on Saipan yesterday with the hope of having the CNMI join the regional group in the near future.

"We, at the Oceania Cycling Confederation, seeks to boost our membership in the region and we hope that the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands will join our family soon," Victor said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Right now, Oceania Cycling Confederation has only six members—New Zealand, Australia, Tahiti, New Caledonia, Fiji, and Guam. Among the five components of the UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale)—America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Oceania—the latter is the smallest.

"We really need to build our membership to keep up with others, as far as competitions and development of the sport are concerned," Victor said.

Victor arrived on Saipan

See OCEANIA on Page 27

Victor

Orbita catches last bus to Customer Appreciation 8-ball tourney

Arnel Orbita topped Ron Chisato Thursday to win the last qualifying tournament for Sunday's USS Peleliu Club's Customer Appreciation 8-Ball Tournament.

He will face off against previous winners Joe Asanuma, Mei Rengiil, Dean Santos, Rick Rengiil, Patrick Taitano, Taylor Watanabe, Simeon Kapileo, Leonard Sablan, Erina Olkeriil, Nizer Masayos, Patrick Cepeda, and John Mongami for the $100 first prize in the Sept. 5 contest.

They will be joined by Chisato, Annie Tesiro, and Wellson Apaisang, who earned the most points in qualifying tournaments. Chisato's second place gave him the points lead, while Tesiro's third place put her in a tie with Apaisang for the last slots in the 16-player field.

The finalists fought through a series of qualifying tournaments since July 4 for a shot at the first place trophy, and $100. Second place is worth $50. Pacific Amusement is also providing tro-

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